

D-8039A/31

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
 S. B. REGISTRY  
 No. **S. B. D.**  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

OCT 28 1939

Chungking, Oct. 27.

Miss Yang Wei-ming, the girl scout who went through the firing lines during the fighting in Shanghai to deliver a Chinese national flag to the besieged "Lone Battalion" today sent a special wire to the Battalion from a hospital in Chengtu, where she is recovering from injuries received in a recent motor accident.—Reuter.

File

AUG 20 1939

**Council Not Asked  
By Nippon Military  
For Chinese Troops**

Questioned this morning on the Council's attitude towards the recent comment made in local Japanese circles for the handing over of Chinese soldiers interned in the French Concession and International Settlement, following the Sino-Japanese hostilities around Shanghai in 1937, to the Japanese military, an SMC official stated that no official discussions on the subject had been brought up and no mention whatever made, other than the reports which appeared in the local Japanese press, known to the intimate as often on a par with the things seen in the Confessions of An Opium Smoker.

File  
C 50/8

NOV 28 1939

## Japanese Want Custody Of Interned Soldiers

Mr. Y. Miura Asks for  
List of Names, Arms

Japanese authorities were dissatisfied with the attitude of the Settlement authorities toward demands for the custody of Chinese soldiers interned in the Settlement at a time when the Shanghai area is under Japanese occupation, the Tai-ku Shunpo said yesterday.

In reply to a demand from Mr. Yoshiaki Miura, Japanese Consul-General, for a list of the prisoners and their arms, the Settlement authorities on Saturday reported only on those who came into the Settlement after the famous siege at the Joint Savings' Society godown on North Szechuen Road, the paper said.

The Japanese authorities wanted information not only about those men but also about the 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers who were reported to have filtered into the Settlement and Concession at the time of the hostilities. The Japanese desired information about their whereabouts and their arms, according to the paper.

### Criticism

It was a matter for criticism, the paper stated, that more than 220 Chinese troops who had served under Hsieh Chin-yuan of the Central Army 88th Division were still being kept in prisoners' barracks at Kiaochow and Singapore Roads, now that the second anniversary of the Shanghai fighting had passed.

Whether they were being fed at the expense of the Shanghai Municipal Council or the Chungking Government was not the only question for the Japanese authorities, the paper declared. The fact that the Chinese had not yet been handed over to the Japanese was a matter for a great concern, according to the daily.

Li  
C 5 1/2

AUG 28 1939

## REPORT ON SOLDIERS HERE IS DESIRED

### Japanese Wish Custody Of Chinese Interned In Settlement

Japanese authorities were dissatisfied with the attitude of the Settlement authorities towards demands for the custody of Chinese soldiers interned in the Settlement at a time when the Shanghai area is under Japanese occupation, the "Tairiku Shimpō" said yesterday.

In reply to a demand from Mr. Yoshiaki Mura, Japanese Consul-General, for a list of the prisoners and their arms, the Settlement authorities on Saturday reported only on those who came into the Settlement after the famous siege at the Joint Savings' Society godown on North Szechuen Road, the paper said.

The Japanese authorities wanted information not only about those men but also about the 6,000 to 7,000 soldiers who were reported to have filtered into the Settlement and Concession at the time of the hostilities. The Japanese desired information about their whereabouts and their arms, according to the paper.

It was a matter for criticism, the paper stated, that more than 230 Chinese troops which had served under Hsien Chin-yuan of the Central Army 88th Division were still being kept in prisoners' barracks at Kiaochow and Singapore Roads, now that the second anniversary of the Shanghai fighting had passed.

Whether they were being fed at the expense of the Shanghai Municipal Council or the Chungking Government was not the only question for the Japanese authorities, the paper declared.

The fact that the Chinese had not yet been handed over to the Japanese was a matter for a great concern, according to the daily.

RE CHINA DAILY NEWS.

AUG 22 1938

## "Lone Battalion" Internment

**Japanese Authorities  
Officially Agreed to  
Camp on Nov. 1, 1937**

On November 1, 1937, one day after the "Lone Battalion" was interned by the Shanghai Municipal Council, identical letters were forwarded to the Consular Corps and the Japanese Consulate-General, informing them of the Council's decision to intern these soldiers at the expense of the Chinese Government until the termination of Sino-Japanese hostilities, according to official quarters questioned on the subject by the "North-China Daily News" yesterday.

Replies were received within a surprisingly short time informing the Council of their complete agreement to the internment. In this connection, it was pointed out that the Japanese Consul-General being a member of the Consular Corps, not only replied on behalf of his own consulate but also voiced no objections to the Corps' reply to the Council.

As will be recalled, Japanese rate-payers in the Settlement have threatened not to pay their rates, as they accused the Council of financing the maintenance of the "Lone Battalion." In this connection the same official quarters stated that the Chinese Government had assumed full responsibility for all expenses incurred.

*Lilo*  
*7 22/8*

SHANGHAI TIMES.

AUG 21 1939

**"LONE BATTALION"  
CONTROVERSY****Alleged Failure Of The  
Chungking Regime To  
Pay Challenged**

CHUNGKING, Aug. 20.—A Foreign Office spokesman last night issued a statement in connection with a British report from Shanghai that the Japanese authorities are demanding the handing over of the so-called "Lone battalion" interned by the Shanghai Municipal Council and that they are basing their demand on the alleged fact that the Shanghai Municipal Council is obliged to pay for the upkeep since the Chinese Government had failed to remit funds.

The statement asserts that the alleged failure of the Chinese Government to pay is a pure fabrication since the S.M.C. incurred an expense of \$43,600 up to March of this year, which sum had been paid by the Chinese Finance Ministry early in April. At the same time, the National Government had undertaken to reimburse the S.M.C. for all expenses further advanced by them in this connection. The statement concludes by saying that the S.M.C., having taken upon themselves the friendly duty of intern-ing the Lone Battalion, are expected to afford them continued protection according to usual practice and not to accede to the unreasonable demand for their surrender.—Trans-ocean.

---

*File*  
*62*  
*8*

CHINA

AUG 21 1939

## Chungking Denies Failing To Pay Up For "Lone Battalion"

(Reuters)

CHUNGKING, Aug. 20.—Allegations that the Chinese government had failed to remit funds necessary for the upkeep of the "lone battalion" were categorically denied today by the Foreign Office spokesman.

He pointed out that, according to information furnished by the British Embassy, the expenses incurred by the Shanghai Municipal Council for the maintenance of the "lone battalion" up to March last had amounted to \$43,600.

Payment of this sum, he declar-

ed, was ordered by the Ministry of Finance early in April.

At the same time, the Government undertook to reimburse the Shanghai Municipal Council for a sustenance allowance to be advanced by them.

The spokesman said the Council, having taken upon themselves the friendly duty of internment of the "lone battalion" in the Settlement, "are expected to give them continued protection, in accordance with usual practice, and not to accede to any unreasonable demands for their surrender."



CHUNGKING CHINA NEWS

AUG 21 1939

## Chungking and "Lone Battalion"

### S.M.C. Will Be Reimbursed For Their Maintenance

Chungking, Aug. 20

A Foreign Office spokesman last night issued a statement in connection with a British report from Shanghai that the Japanese authorities are demanding the handing over of the so-called "Lone Battalion" interned by the Shanghai Municipal Council and that they are basing their demand on the alleged fact that the Shanghai Municipal Council is obliged to pay for the upkeep since the Chinese government had failed to remit funds.

The statement asserts that the alleged failure of the Chinese government to pay is a pure fabrication since the S.M.C. incurred an expense of \$43,600 up to March of this year which sum had been paid by the Chinese Finance Ministry early in April. At the same time, the National Government had undertaken to reimburse the S.M.C. for all expenses further advanced by them in this connection.

The statement concludes by saying that the S.M.C. having taken upon themselves the friendly duty of internment the "Lone Battalion," are expected to afford them continued protection according to usual practice and not to accede to the unreasonable demand for their surrender.

Trans-Ocean

NOV 18 1937

## **"Lone Battalion" Comdr. Answers Local Paper**

Colonel Hsieh Claims Chungking Has Reimbursed  
The Council With Sums; Calls For Just And  
Humanitarian Treatment Of Troops

In connection with the allegation made by the "Taichung Shunpo" that the participation of members of the Lone Battalion in various "leave" cases under the finances of the Shanghai Municipal Council, a statement was issued by Col. Hsieh Chung-yuan, the battalion commander, refuting the allegation yesterday.

In the period between October 23, 1937, and November 30, 1938, Col. Hsieh stated, members of the "Lone Battalion" were supported by local Chinese charitable organizations and by public contributions. During the nine month period from December, 1938, to August, 1939, a monthly sum of \$4,500 had been drawn from the S.M.C. for the maintenance of the "Lone Battalion," making a total of \$40,500, for which receipts had been issued by him, he stated. The Chinese Government in Chungking had reimbursed the Council with a sum of \$43,300 some time during April, so that a sum of \$3,100 is still outstanding in favour of the "Lone Battalion," the statement revealed.

### **Cites Cases Of Internment**

The statement then cited various precedents in which neutral States had accorded just and humanitarian treatment to troops belonging to the contestants, under the provisions of the usually recognized international law. The expenses for the upkeep of the belligerents would be repaid only after peace had been concluded between the contestants.

Among other examples, Col. Hsieh cited the case of the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, during which Switzerland had interned more than 80,000 French troops. When the Franco-Prussian War was concluded, France repaid Switzerland a sum of Fr. 1,000,000, representing expenses laid out for the upkeep of interned French troops. A similar precedent was also afforded during the World War when troops belonging to the contestants were also interned in Switzerland.

"Our withdrawal from the godowns of the Joint Savings Society and Trust in October, 1937, was made in compliance with the request of third parties, and under such circumstance the Lone Battalion could not be regarded as runaway soldiers," Col. Hsieh maintained.

Whether or not it would be possible in the future to refund the expenses for the upkeep of the Lone Battalion to the S.M.C., it is hardly possible for me to say he added.

"But what I had long wished to say is that Hongkew should be immediately restored to the Shanghai Municipal Council, and the restrictions that have been placed in the surrounding areas of the Settlement should be immediately removed so that the financial position of the Council might be eased."

*File*  
*PK*

1937

## "Lone Battalion" Head Claims Privileges

### Government Will Pay for Support of Internees

In reply to the Japanese assertion that the Shanghai Municipal Council has been feeding members of the Chinese "Lone Battalion" encamped in Kiaochow Road without being compensated by the Chinese government, Colonel Hsieh Chih-yuan, commander of the battalion, who made world-wide fame by offering many lives as sacrifice against the Japanese in China after all other units of Chinese troops had withdrawn, issued a statement through the Sheng Sheng News Agency last night.

Colonel Hsieh stated that he and his men withdrew from China by order from the Chinese high command only at the request of British and American military leaders in Shanghai. Between the date of withdrawal (October 31, 1937) and November of last year they had been fed by Chinese philanthropic bodies. During the past nine months he had been borrowing \$4,500 monthly from the Shanghai Municipal Council and the debt amounted to \$40,500. The Council has requested the Chinese government to refund this debt and the latter complied with the request in April by sending \$43,600. At present the Chinese government has deposited \$3,100 with the Council for feeding the battalion, Colonel Hsieh stated.

Quoting international law and precedents in world politics, Colonel Hsieh contended that the money used by neutrals for feeding war prisoners should be refunded by the country concerned after the armistice. He mentioned Switzerland during the Franco-Prussian War (1871) as an example. France was said to have returned the necessary funds only after the war during which Switzerland had been caring for more than 80,000 French troops. He wished to make it clear that he and his men could not be treated as "escaped soldiers."

While the Japanese have threatened to refuse to pay taxes to the Council if the latter continues to spend money on the "Lone Battalion," Colonel Hsieh concluded by suggesting that the Council take over Hongkew and Japanese-controlled parts of the Settlement in order to increase its revenues.

SHANGHAI TIMES.

AUG 16 1936

## **"Lone Battalion" Upkeep Is Protested By Japanese**

**Nipponese Ratepayers In Shanghai May Shortly  
Refuse Payment Of Taxes If Prisoners Are  
Given Support Out Of Council Revenues**

Angered by the alleged heavy drain upon the already-depleted finances of the Shanghai Municipal Council caused by the maintenance of several hundred ex-Chinese soldiers interned in the International Settlement, Japanese ratepayers may soon halt paying their taxes, the "Tairiku Shimpō," local Japanese daily, reported yesterday in a featured article.

The Chinese prisoners of the "Lone Battalion" who fled into the Settlement through the British defence sector when the Japanese force occupied China in October 1937, have been interned in a camp at the corner of Kiaochow and Singapore Roads. They first numbered 230 men, according to the daily.

Their maintenance cost was first paid by the Chinese Nationalist Government, but since the fall of Nanking into Japanese hands, the "Tairiku Shimpō" said, no money has been forthcoming to defray the costs of their internment. "The Council hopes to be repaid someday by the Chungking Government, although there is no possibility of that regime making any payments," according to the newspaper.

### **Riot Recalled**

Indignation has been caused among Japanese, the daily claimed, because of the action of the Council "in protecting and maintaining Chinese prisoners for such a long time in an area under Japanese control."

Several casualties were caused last year in a riot at the camp when the internees resisted an attempt by the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., to prevent them from hoisting a Chinese nationalist flag, the paper recalled.

The "Tairiku Shimpō" failed to state what should be done with the internees.

*File  
11/16*

AUG 16 1939

**The Lone Battalion**

One of the most difficult of the many problems left over from the Sino-Japanese hostilities in the Shanghai area and one which is incapable of solution until peace is declared involves the "Lone Battalion," now interned in Kiaochow Road. These men, after a heroic struggle against the Japanese, were offered the sanctuary of the Foreign Settlement, and those who could walk, hobble or be carried out of the Joint Savings Bank building, were admitted into the Settlement and afterwards interned until their disposition could be arranged. Unfortunately, the tide of war passed Shanghai and swept up the Yangtze beyond Hankow, and with Shanghai surrounded by Japanese troops there is no possibility of releasing them. Theoretically, they could be marched to the edge of the Settlement and escorted across the border, but as the Japanese are in control, and as the time of the Shanghai fighting were in no mood to burden themselves with prisoners, this is impossible. Continued internment therefore becomes necessary. At the time of the "Lone Battalion" incident, the country rang with their fame. Their brave conduct and heroic deeds would never be forgotten, it was declared. Apparently, the Chungking Government's memory is lapsing because for some months no money has been forthcoming for their upkeep, and the larger part now falls on the Municipal Council. The action of the foreign authorities has been a dual cause of complaint. The Japanese objected to this humanitarian intervention, and after some time in internment serious trouble broke out among the internees, necessitating strong action to suppress it. Now, the local Japanese official organ has opened a campaign against them and reports that Japanese ratepayers may refuse to pay their rates if the drain on municipal finances for their upkeep is to be maintained. It is a question of Solomonic perplexity, and the clamant Japanese ratepayers can be assured that the Municipal Council is as anxious as anybody to solve it, but nobody has yet offered the means of doing it. Neither does the Japanese newspaper which inspires the clamour. It is one of those difficulties which the Council must continue to endure until peace once again rules in this country.

MAR 14 1939

POLICE  
DISTRICT  
8032131  
14 3 3

## "Lone Battalion" Support

**Chinese Financial Aid  
Withdrawn; Council to  
Assist Temporarily**

The famous Chinese "Lone Battalion," whose valiant stand against overwhelming Japanese forces in the Joint Savings Bank godown on North Soochow Road in November 1937, drew forth praise from all over the world, are once again in the news. It was revealed yesterday that the various Chinese philanthropic institutions, which had provided the funds necessary for the maintenance of the soldiers at the internment camp near Kiaochow Park, since they fled from the godown into the Settlement, had withdrawn that support owing to financial difficulties.

The "North-China Daily News" was informed by a high official of the Shanghai Municipal Council yesterday that for the past two months the cost of maintaining the 370 soldiers had been borne by the Council, although every effort was being made to transfer that cost to other bodies. Thus, he explained, was being arranged by the Chinese members of the Council, who would report on what had been accomplished in the near future.

Asked what action would be taken if the necessary financial support was not forthcoming, the official stated that this was a hypothetical question although he did not think that the soldiers would be released. Although no information was given as to the cost of maintaining the interned battalion, a report from a reliable source yesterday stated that about \$4,500 were being spent each month by the S.M.C. in this connection.

The "Lone Battalion" is commanded by Col. Hsieh Chin-yuan and Major Yang Jun-fu, graduates of the Whampoa Military Academy, both officers being interned with their men after their retreat from the godown into the Settlement, where they were disarmed by British soldiers and taken to the Kiaochow Road internment camp.

It will be recalled that in August of last year members of the battalion voted over the question of the raising of the Chinese national flag in the camp to mark the anniversary of the commencement of the fighting in Shanghai. Four of the soldiers were killed during a sanguinary battle with Russian volunteers and sixteen were injured before the riot was subdued.

FEB 22 1959

8039 A/S  
24 2 37

## Inmate Disappears from Lone Battalion Camp

### Mystery Unsolved as Way Of Escape Unknown

Private Shao Kung-Kye, 21, one of the members of the Lone Battalion, interned at a special camp off Kiao-how Road on Singapore Road, mysteriously disappeared, during the night from Monday to yesterday, his absence being discovered yesterday morning at the usual roll call. A search throughout the camp was immediately commenced but no trace of him could be found. It was furthermore established that he definitely did not pass any of the many entries of the Russian Regiment Shanghai Volunteer Corps, which surround the camp.

Detectives from Gordon Road station which were called in to solve the mystery were puzzled, as the camp is believed to be escape-proof and as it was reasoned that if he was able to make his escape over the eight foot wall surrounding the camp, which has barbed wire on top, at least there would be foot or hand prints or his clothing would have been found, and the way out of the camp is a close scrutiny of the barbed wire, revealed not the slightest clue as to how he made his escape.

One of the other men here might have been killed, it is seen, for as he managed to make it to a crevice over the wall, was the Knochow Road Park, but the watchmen on duty there said that they had seen no more. Meanwhile, police station in the settlement and the Concession area. It seems to be a development of the police and are on the lookout for him, but it is doubtful if any method will ever be found, it was said. He will find some refuge, probably in the Chinese Home, a member of the Battalion, an ex-United Nations soldier, after the war, was a Chinese and a Chinese American Soldier. *Continued*

Last summer considerable difficulties were experienced in keeping the number of the camp under the strict discipline imposed on them and over the question of flying the Chinese national flag on the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities between the Republic and the Japanese. The Republic's flag, consisting of a blue, white and red horizontal band, is not permitted to be hoisted on the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities between the Republic and the Japanese.

FILE

SHANGHAI POLICE  
REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SHANGHAI TIMES.

JAN 1 1935

## LONE BATTALION TO LOSE COMMANDER

Colonel Hsieh Will Go  
To Hospital; Suffers  
From Severe Chill

Colonel Hsieh Chungyuan, of the interned "Lone Battalion" here, has entered a hospital for a prolonged rest and will probably spend the winter there, it was learnt yesterday.

The "Lone Battalion," it may be recalled, became world-famous in the later part of October, 1937 when they staged a daring stand at the Joint Savings godown against the Japanese. Only after having received orders from the highest military authorities of the Chinese Government did the battalion retreat into the Settlement area.

Since then, the troops, amounting to 350, have been living in a concentration camp located on Singapore Road under the guardianship of Russian members of the S.V.C.

A visit to the camp reveals that Colonel Hsieh and his subordinates, whom he calls "brothers," are leading normal civil lives. The "brothers" are fond of playing basketball, while the colonel himself enjoys a game of tennis once in a while. Life at the camp begins at 5 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

2/1



SHANG

STBY

12.8  
12.8

SHANGHAI TIMES.

NOV 20 1938

## COUNCIL ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION

Another Camp Incident  
Reported With Pupil  
As New "Victim"

The Chinese Ratepayer's Association of the International Settlement has forwarded an official letter to the Shanghai Municipal Council requesting that investigations be made into the alleged manhandling of a Chinese school-boy by the Russian watchman of the Koochow Road camp of the 'Lone Battalion,' which incident has been given prominence by the Chinese press.

Referring to the former incident in which several members of the battalion suffered injuries in a clash with the Russian volunteer on guard at the camp, the letter complained about the repeated "rough action" on the part of the Russian guards and requested the Council to investigate and to punish the Russian guard involved in the latest incident.

The incident was reported to have taken place on Wednesday, shortly after 5 p.m., when a party of Chinese students was about to leave the camp under the leadership of an American teacher. One of the youths wished to leave the camp earlier than his companions and accompanied by a Chinese soldier living in the camp he went to the camp door but due to some misunderstanding, of which no explanation has been given, a Russian guard is alleged to have beaten the boy. Colonel Hsieh, commander of the battalion, has brought the matter to the attention of the Council authorities. The students went to the camp in order to play some games with the interned soldiers.

20/11  
8/1

CHINA PRESS.

NOV 19 1938

## 'Lone Battalion' Incident Protest Still Unreplied

Gonzaga College Pupil  
Said Maltreated By  
Russian Guard

Representation made to the Shanghai Municipal Council against the alleged attack by a Russian guard at the "Lone Battalion" concentration camp on a pupil of Gonzaga College last Wednesday have not yet been replied. The CHINA PRESS learned yesterday.

The schoolboy, named Tan Wei-chiu, who was reportedly punched on the head by the guard, was well and attended school as usual yesterday. It was further learned

The incident allegedly occurred last Wednesday afternoon when a party of pupils of Gonzaga College, 734 Kiaochow Road, led by a foreign teacher, visited the "Lone Battalion" concentration camp situated on the same road to comfort the interned Chinese troops.

Everything went on smoothly until the time the pupils were leaving the camp for home at 5:15 p.m. It appeared that one of the students, by the name of Tan, wanted to go first and was accompanied to the entrance by one of the interned soldiers.

A Russian guard, allegedly displeased by the boy's departure, was said to have manhandled him, resulting in the slight injury of the latter.

It was asserted yesterday that the reason for the attack was that the student did not shut the door as he left—which was later shut by the soldier who accompanied him.

The CHINA PRESS learned yesterday that shortly afterward both officials of the "Lone Battalion" and the Gonzaga College separately lodged protests with the Shanghai Municipal Council in connection with the incident.

*File*

*67*

SHANGHAI TIMES.

NOV 4 1938

### Proclamation Made By Col. Hsieh

Colonel Hsieh Ching-yuan, Commander of the famous "Lost Battalion" now interned in Shanghai, has issued a proclamation to the people of China on the occasion of the first anniversary of the battle at the Joint Savings Godown. Colonel Hsieh stated that he was a great advocate of the scorched earth policy but that he and his men were full of regret that they couldn't be at the front.

The commander also expressed his gratitude for the deep concern shown by the general public over the welfare of his men. In conclusion, he said that the troubles of China would multiply in months to come and that it would be necessary for everybody to work with greater effort.

Lee  
K. Y.

SHANGHAI EVENING POST & MERCURY.

OCT 3 1 1938

**"Lone Battalion"**

**Recalls Battle**

The famous "Lone Battalion" now interned here observed the first anniversary of their heroic fight at the godowns of the Joint Trading Society of the Four Banks at a ceremony yesterday.

A flag raising ceremony was held at the Singapore Road camp at 10 o'clock in the morning. It was followed by a three-minute silence in memory of their comrades who fell on the battlefield.

Ccl. Hsieh Ching-yuan, commander of the "Lone Battalion" delivered an address of admonition in which he urged his comrades to prepare themselves "to sacrifice their lives for the nation."

Many public organizations and private individuals presented "comfort bags" to the "Lone Battalion" as a token of their respect.

Mr. Franklyn, chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, also called on Ccl. Hsieh in a private capacity.

---

## NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

OCT 25 1938

**"Doomed Battalion"  
Now Athletic****Exhibition Tennis Games  
For Today**

The "Doomed Battalion" have taken up athletics ever since last spring and they are at present as keen as any sportsmen. The soldiers first learned to play basketball which is extremely popular among Chinese. Not long ago they were staged an exhibition of volleyball by the Russian Regiment, Foreign Y.M.C.A. League champions.

Today, starting at 3 p.m., there will be a series of tennis exhibitions in which Poker Tong and Harry K. F. Li, the year's Shanghai doubles champions, will play David Tsai and T. S. Wei of St. John's University.

Colonel Hsieh Chin-yuan, who commanded the Battalion during their adventurous and heroic stay in the isolated Continental Bank Godown, is an ardent sports devotee himself. If time permits he intends to play one or two sets against one of the visitors.

---

Y. C. C.  
Q. S. P.

## CHINA PRESS.

OCT 22 1938

### The "Sympathy Grant"

Editor, THE CHINA PRESS

Sir,—The clash between the Chinese soldiers and Russian Volunteers on August 11 has for the past two months aroused the attention of the local community. The Chinese residents of Shanghai have openly expressed dissatisfaction and resentment toward the Shanghai Municipal Council for handling the incident in a rather high-handed way. Following the return of the Chinese National Flag on August 21, friendly negotiations with the S.M.C. finally made possible an amicable settlement of the case as revealed in a letter of the S.M.C. to the C.R.A. which reads in part as follows:

"On humanitarian grounds the Council has decided to grant the sum of \$1,000 to the dependents of each of the men who died of injuries. Accordingly I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for \$3,000, with the request that your Association ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money, and hand it over to them."

All went well when fresh trouble started by two letters in the correspondence column of a morning paper of this city. (October 12 and 14). The authors of the letters evidently meant to find fault or make trouble with the S.M.C. when they protested against the decision of the Council and complained childishly about the "sympathy grant" of \$3,000 Chinese currency. What greatly surprised me was the immediate response and editorial support of the *North-China Daily News*. In the issue of the British journal for October 14 I discovered an editorial on the "Mistaken Policy" of the S.M.C. in which the Council's letter was characterized as "abject in its terms, overflowing with regrets and expressions of sympathy—a very humble communication." It went on to ask "many interesting questions" in regard to the decision of the Council. In short, the leading editorial ought to convince its readers that the S.M.C. could and should have saved those \$3,000 and let the Chinese soldiers (and their dependents) go to the devil. On the editorial and the letters in question I have commented rather bluntly in a letter to the *China Critic* in its issue for October 20. But here I wish to point out that the *North-China Daily News* has by so doing vindicated itself, at least for once against current charges of its pro-S.M.C. attitude and policy.

That the editor of the N.-C. D. N. expressed his convictions on the basis of inadequate information was clearly borne out by an article in *THE CHINA PRESS* for October 15 in which spokesmen of the S.M.C. deplored the wrong attitude and hasty judgment of certain critics against the reasonable settlement of the Lone Battalion case. At the risk of repetition let me quote a few passages from the said article.

1. "It has been said of the Council that, in granting \$1,000 to each of the three men who died of injuries received in the affray, has placed a premium on lawlessness by paying compensation to the relatives of men whose deaths were the direct cause of the fight, thus encouraging further disorders. Far from rewarding lawlessness, the S.M.C. merely granted the minimum compensation to the dependents of the deceased soldiers.

2. "There was nothing more important than that harmonious relations between the S.M.C. and the Chinese community should be maintained. It is the duty of the Council to attempt to maintain good relations not only with the Chinese, but also with all other national groups in this cosmopolitan city.

3. "The incident unfortunately involved the Chinese National Flag and in dealing with the situation, the Council had to take into account Chinese patriotic feelings, their psychology and their point of view.

4. "The Russian Regiment was sent primarily to enforce discipline, and it was not expected that violence and fatal injuries would result. It was only natural that the Council should seek to make retribution when enforcement of discipline resulted inadvertently in deaths. . . . The money was handed over to the Chinese Ratepayers Association, and if dependents cannot be found, the money will be returned to the Council.

3. "There is not a single argument which will convince the Chinese community that the interned soldiers should not have flown their National Flag on August 13, the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities here."

The mis-guided judgment of the N.-C. D. N. was further exposed by an editorial in the *Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury* on the "Sympathy Grant." Permit me to quote from the editorial for your reader's reference.

22/10

## CHINA PRESS.

OCT 22 1938

"It is apparently felt by some of our foreign readers that we should criticize the Council. On the contrary we believe that in view of the emotion prevalent in the Chinese community as result of this trouble, the Council acted wisely.

In any event the essential part of the precedent is that when there has been an unfortunate occurrence regretted all around, there is some reason for manifesting generosity in trying to settle the matter.

"As we see it, the Council merely tried to be practical and to find concrete expression of a regret that any such thing happened. Its \$3,000 was a sort of token payment, an Oriental compromise. Had the Council been completely in the wrong, \$3,000 would not have been enough payment. Had the Council been completely in the right, even then it accords pretty well with Far East ideas to yield slightly in the interest of salving hurt feelings.

"And make no mistake—the feelings of the Chinese community were hurt by this affair. The Lone Battalion has been idolized by the Chinese, who are in a very difficult position nowadays and who deserve some consideration. That does not mean they should be given in to unreasonably. But in this international community it will harm nobody to let our Chinese members feel they are not being oppressed because of the withdrawal of their army."

Now, the incident of the Lone Battalion on August 11 is amicably settled—thanks to the co-operation of the S.M.C. and the Chinese Ratepayers Association and the support of numerous foreign sympathizers. The Lone Battalion had through struggle and bloodshed successfully defended the Chinese National Flag, for their right to fly the Blue Sky and the White Sun is indisputably recognized by all thinking people. As a Chinese correspondent pointed out, (N.-C. D. N., October 15) the Chinese community will receive from the S.M.C. the sum of \$3,000, not in a spirit of triumph, but with a feeling of friendly appreciation.

"AM I RIGHT IN SAYING SO?"  
Shanghai, October 20, 1938.

OCT 17 1938

## That "Sympathy Grant"

**SEVERAL PEOPLE** have inquired why we have failed to comment on the Shanghai Municipal Council's "sympathy grant" of \$3000 to the families of three Chinese soldiers of the interned "Lone Battalion" who were killed during the recent disciplinary fracas in their camp.

It is apparently felt by some of our foreign readers that we should criticize the Council. On the contrary we believe that in view of the emotion prevalent in the Chinese community as result of this trouble, the Council acted wisely. Its actions were dictated by what may be termed political considerations, but why not? Its decision is assailed as setting a bad precedent, but why? The Council is not a law court, compelled to be bound rigidly by precedent, and in any event the essential part of this precedent is that when there has been an unfortunate occurrence regretted all around there is some reason for manifesting generosity in trying to settle the matter. Such a precedent probably must be followed in its most fundamental aspect if we have any more difficulty of comparable sort. In fact we believe that this community is in general "hard boiled" to a degree incredible elsewhere on compensation matters, and a little thinking on the subject may do none of us any harm.

Regard the whole affair realistically. Both the soldiers and the Council authorities were to blame, it seems to us, in letting the internment camp ferment into a state where such a serious clash occurred. There was evidently a lack of employment for the men and a lack of understanding on both sides. Finally a lot of mercenaries of another nationality from either of the chiefly interested parties waded in, under orders, and three fatalities among the interned men were the result, along with a lot of other casualties. That was bad business whatever its cause. Our local Chinese community, which pays a very large share of the rates, became extremely concerned and perhaps unjustifiably exercised against the Council's eventual severity. It all added up to a mess where examination into the initial details became of no use.

As we see it, the Council merely tried to be practical and to find concrete expression (at no very great cost, either) of a regret that any such thing happened. Its \$3000 was a sort of token payment, an Orient compromise. Had the Council been completely in the wrong, \$3000 would not have been enough payment. Had the Council been completely in the right even then it accords pretty well with Far East ideas to yield slightly in the interest of saving hurt feelings.

And make no mistake—the feelings of the Chinese community were hurt by this affair. The "Lone Battalion" has been idolized by the Chinese, who are in a very difficult position nowadays and who deserve some consideration. That does not mean they should be given in so unreasonably. But in this international community it will harm nobody to let our Chinese members feel they are not being oppressed because of the withdrawal of their army.

f.c.  
C. 17  
17/10



CHINA PRESS.

OCT 15 1938

# Settlement Of Dispute Over Interned Troops Said Most Reasonable

S.M.C. Councillor And  
Spokesman Defend  
\$3,000 Grant

DEPLORE CRITICS'  
"WRONG ATTITUDE"

Necessity For Complete  
Accord In Shanghai  
Emphasized

All criticism thus far directed against the Shanghai Municipal Council in connection with the settlement of the situation arising from the clash between the "One Battalion" and Russian Regiment on August 11 indicate a lack of knowledge of the facts of the case and an S.M.C. councillor informed The China Press yesterday that in granting \$1,000 to each of the three men who died of injuries received in the affair, has placed a premium on lawlessness by paying compensation to the relatives of men whose deaths were the direct cause of the fight thus encouraging further disorders.

It has been said of the Council that, in granting \$1,000 to each of the three men who died of injuries received in the affair, has placed a premium on lawlessness by paying compensation to the relatives of men whose deaths were the direct cause of the fight thus encouraging further disorders.

In making these grants, the Shanghai Municipal Council addressed a letter to the Chinese Ratepayers' Association, stating that "on humanitarian grounds the Council has decided to grant the sum of \$1,000 to the dependents of each of the men who died of injuries."

In the letter was enclosed a check for \$3,000, with the request that the association ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money, and hand it over to them.

## Minimum Compensation

Far from regarding lawlessness, the councillor continued, the S.M.C. merely granted the minimum compensation to the dependents of the deceased soldiers. There was nothing more important, he said, than that harmonious relation between the S.M.C. and the Chinese community should be maintained.

It is the duty of the Council to attempt to maintain good relations not only with the Chinese but also with all other national groups in this cosmopolitan city.

Another Council spokesman told THE CHINA PRESS that the criticisms merely indicated that the critics viewed the incident from a completely wrong perspective. It was not merely a dispute between the "One Battalion" and those responsible for guarding the camp, but it had developed a feeling of resent-

ment on the part of the entire Chinese community against the Council.

The critics also fail to understand, he added, that the incident unfortunately involved the Chinese National Flag, and that in dealing with the situation the Council had to take into account Chinese patriotic feelings, their psychology and then general point of view.

Furthermore, it must be remembered, he said, that there are five Chinese councillors in the Settlement administration upon whom the Chinese community undeniably exercised pressure.

What started as a minor riot developed a political aspect, and it was imperative that the matter be settled amicably in the best way possible. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the Russian Regiment was sent primarily to enforce discipline, and it was not expected that violence and fatal injuries would result. It was only natural, he felt, that the Council should seek to make retribution when enforcement of discipline resulted inadvertently in deaths.

There is not a single argument which will convince the Chinese community that the interned should not have down their National Flag on August 12, the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities here. It would have been just as hard for any other patriotic community under the same circumstances, to understand it, it was pointed out.

## Dependents Real Sufferers

It was also pointed out that the real sufferers of the future are not the deceased soldiers, but their dependents. The Council acted in the belief that each man had dependents, for the family system in China is such that even distant aged relatives quite naturally depend upon young men for support.

The money was handed over to the Chinese Ratepayers Association, a reputable body. The logical of this procedure is that, if dependents cannot be found the money will be returned to the Council.

File  
C-10

# NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

OCT 15 1938

## "Mistaken Policy": A Chinese Point of View

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR.--That the Chinese soldiers interned in Kiaochow Park might have been difficult to control was likely. But that the punishment inflicted upon them of having three men beaten to death and more than twenty others severely wounded was a bit too harsh could not be denied. If the matter had been skillfully handled it might not have had such unfortunate results. It is only right that the incident should now be closed by an amicable settlement. Had this amicable settlement not been reached, the Camp Commandant and the interned soldiers would still regard each other with suspicion and this suspicion might well be the cause of worse troubles in future. Your editorial was right in saying that discipline cannot be bought. Discipline has not been bought in this case.

I cannot agree that the letter addressed by the Acting Secretary of the Municipal Council to the Chinese Ratepayers' Association is a "very humble communication" as I am sure that the Association would receive it with gratitude and a feeling of friendly appreciation rather than of triumph. The request made when the \$3,000 were handed to the Chinese Ratepayers' Association that the Association should ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money and hand it over to them in my opinion was sufficient. If the Council think that they can trust the distribution of the compensation to another public body of repute it need not go into the trouble of ascertaining the names and addresses of the dependents itself. The Council has done its duty.

Let us not assess the value of human lives in the terms of how many dollars each. There may be people like DISGRACE and ONLOOKER who think that the compensation of \$3,000 is not justifiable. But there are plenty others who having seen the soldiers put up such a magnificent defence of their country regard them as noble creatures whose lives cannot be compensated by pecuniary rewards.

The hypothesis put forward by your Editor in the last paragraph of his editorial was admitted by himself to be ridiculous and certainly cannot be compared with this case. So why mention it.

N. L. L.

Shanghai, Oct. 14.

## NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS,

OCT 14 1938

## MISTAKEN POLICY

The Municipal Council should feel by no means surprised if the manner in which they have dealt with the riot of the Chinese soldiers interned in Kiaochow Park is very severely criticised, for upon the closest scrutiny it is impossible to discover what principles of good government can possibly be invoked in its justification. Cutting away all the dramatics which have been woven around the men involved, the facts are that they were interned during the course of hostilities around Shanghai, in accordance with the neutrality of the International Settlement, they had for months behaved in such a manner, that the Council itself had to confess that "It has been found recently by the Camp Commandant that it was becoming increasingly difficult, and at times impossible, to enforce any kind of discipline in the camp. Attempts to enforce discipline were met with obstruction, etc." and eventually these men flouted authority and created a riot in the suppression of which some of them were injured, three fatally. The matter was taken up by the Chinese Ratepayers Association, for what reason apart from sentiment it is impossible to understand, and the Council has decided to award compensation to the families of the dead men. The letter conveying this decision is abject in its terms, overflowing with regrets and expressions of sympathy,—a very humble communication. The only possible sentiment that could in the circumstances have been expressed would, surely, have been that the Council regretted that the behaviour of the men obliged its officers to take the action they did, for any modification of that point of view derogates from the authority of the Council and its servants. There should most certainly have been left no opening for any suggestion that the action of the officials concerned in any way deserved less than the completest support from the Council.

The communication to the Chinese Ratepayers Association continues:

On humanitarian grounds the Council has decided to grant the sum of \$1000 to the dependents of each of the men who died of injuries. Accordingly I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for \$3000, with the request that your Association ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money, and hand it over to them.

Many interesting questions arise from the above passage. Have the Council been completely informed as to the number and nature of the dependents of the dead men? Have they any tangible evidence that any such people do in fact exist, and the closeness of their relationship with the three deceased? The answer implied above seems to be in the negative, for the Council asks the Association to "ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money, and hand it over to them." Three thousand dollars have been handed over to the Association, a most reputable

organization it is readily admitted, for it to pass on to people who apparently from the available evidence have made no claims, and whose identities are at present unknown to the Council, or even to the Association which is requested to discover them. The Municipal Council cannot possibly believe that many ratepayers will readily accept this arrangement as a business-like settlement of the trouble. Admitting that the reason for this grant is purely humanitarian, was it really necessary that the Council should make it without itself being certain that there are dependents who have suffered by the deaths of these men? On the face of the Acting Secretary's letter no such case has been made out, and, even if it were, it is open to very considerable doubt whether this is a proper instance in which such compensation should have been granted, for the men obviously suffered as a result of their own disorderly behaviour.

It must be obvious to everyone that this affair establishes an unfortunate precedent, one which verges on the absurd, and if at some future date the Council finds itself faced with a demand from the relatives of an armed robber, shot while fighting the police, there will be many who will fail to perceive very much real difference between the two cases. Certainly the hypothetical instance is ridiculous, and this settlement very little removed from it. Nor will the Shanghai public be at all impressed if at some time or other it is suggested that some esoteric doctrine of high policy is responsible for this extraordinary grant having been made. No matter what humanitarian gloss may be spread over this settlement, it has the unhappy appearance of an agreement made for the purpose of bringing about "harmonious relations.....between the Council's officers responsible for guarding the camp and the interned officers and men." In other words a capitulation to the disorderly elements whose misbehaviour over a number of months culminated in a riot. There should be no very great surprise if it is ultimately shown that this magnanimous gesture on the part of the Council fails of its purpose. Discipline cannot be bought, and if this journal's reading of the facts is correct that is all that is being attempted. From the ratepayers' point of view a procedure which provides for the payment of compensation for losses to rioters or their dependents has nothing to commend it, for it must be quite clear that it merely serves to put a premium upon disorder. Obviously nothing can be done about it now, for whether for good or ill, the payment has been made and the matter, it is hoped, closed, but there can be nothing but regret that the policy which has been followed in this instance is most unfortunate, establishes a precedent which should never have been created, and must leave a sense of insecurity amongst those officials entrusted with the maintenance of law and order.

1/1  
File  
C 14/10

OCT 14 1938

**The Camp Riot:****Some Pertinent Questions**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR, Your correspondent DISGRACE in today's issue is not alone in his view concerning the compensation paid out by the Shanghai Municipal Council. One small group of people I heard discussing the question were of the same opinion and it was remarked that "Someone is sure to write to the paper about it" although they each left for someone else to do.

Your correspondent asks: "Who pressed for payment for the dependent of the men killed? The question is a very natural one in view of the statement in the letter from the Council in which the Secretary states: "I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for \$3,000, with the request that your Association ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money and hand it over to them." Evidently the Council does not know to whom the money is to be paid and it is therefore apparent the pressure for compensation has not come from the dependents, as their names and addresses are not known to the Council. Why then should the money be handed over before this information is forthcoming and why has not the money been placed in some form of permanent security where it will be of lasting benefit to the dependents? What will become of the money should the Association fail in its efforts to discover the names and addresses of the dependents or whether there are any dependents at all? Will the money be returned to the Council? If the Council is to add this responsibility to its voluntary and humanitarian obligations, would it not be wise to at least commence at once to ascertain definitely the names and addresses of the dependents of the remaining members of the camp to whom payments could be made directly in future should another regrettable incident occur and whether they would like payment in cash or in kind, such as a memorial?"

How did the Council arrive at the sum of \$1,000 for compensation for each man killed? Is that the figure at which the Chinese Government assesses the value of human life? Have the dependents of men and women killed in times gone by been so compensated and are the dependents of men losing their lives in the present conflict being compensated anything like so generously, if at all?

If the Council had made any serious search for the Chinese Government's assessment of the value of human life it could have discovered it from the columns of the "North-China Daily News" which published a report from Canton dated April 16, reading as follows:

Railway Disaster Compensation.  
Families of Deceased and Injured to be Given Cash.

Canton, Apr 16.  
Measures for compensating the families of the victims of the fire which occurred on a train of the Canton-Kowloon Railway last Jan. have been communicated by the Ministry of Railways to the Kwangtung Provincial Government for enforcement.

According to these measures, \$100 will be given to the family of each passenger killed, and \$30 to each passenger injured. As there were 102 casualties, the total compensation will be \$30,600.—Kuo Min.

It will be noted that the names and addresses of the families had apparently been ascertained and the payment made direct.

ONLOOKER.

Shanghai, Oct. 13

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
S. F. H. CISTRY  
No S. B. D.  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

# NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

OCT 12 1938

## The Camp Riot: Why Compensation?

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR.—Come, render the account now that the bill has been paid. What procedure was brought to bear? To make the Municipal Council pay \$3,000 to the dependent of the men killed at Kiaochow Road Camp? It came out in evidence that the men were out of hand for several months; that the Council's employees were acting in self-defence at the time the men were killed, and that the Chinese officers of the men in camp were more or less responsible for the trouble, because they could not control their men. Why then are these men returned to the camp from which they were taken for the benefit of peace and order to the Settlement, which at the time of this uprising was costing the Council much money to protect, and the residents much inconvenience. Who demanded the officers returned to the camp and who pressed for the payment for the dependents of the men killed.

This seems to me to be one of the ugliest settlements we have ever seen called upon to countenance, and, since it is beyond the solving of a "face" in the old-timers in China who thoroughly understand "face" and "loss of face" it would be of interest should your readers attempt to present the question glossed over by the Council's attitude in a clearer light.

Seems to me as though the spirits of the men who were actually killed in the godown from which this Lone Battalion sprung into International Settlement and ratepayers' heroes, will stalk the Municipal Council's Fathers, crying aloud for a \$1,000 whisper into the ears of the supreme Chinese General of war on their behalf, and that in future the three heroes of the council of Kiaochow Road will themselves advocate the causes of the Chinese Ratepayers' Association in the realms above and below, so grateful will they be for the unsurpassed and unexpected foreign man cumshaw.

DISGRACE

Shanghai, Oct. 11.

*File*  
*E. 10*

OCT 8 1938

## "Lone Battalion" Trouble Settled

**Compensation for Families  
Of Men Killed in Riot at  
Camp ; Officers Return**

The Acting Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council has addressed the following letter to the Chinese Ratepayers' Association.

"I have to address you on the subject of the unfortunate matter that arose on August 11, at Kiaochow Road Camp where certain officers and men of the Chinese Army were interned.

I am directed to state that the Council most sincerely regrets that circumstances were such that it was forced to take the action it did. In particular the Council sympathizes deeply with the families of the three men who unfortunately died of injuries received in the affray.

On humanitarian grounds the Council has decided to grant the sum of \$1,000 to the dependents of each of the men who died of injuries. Accordingly I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for \$3,000, with the request that your Association ascertain the names and addresses of the dependents properly entitled to the money, and hand it over to them.

### Compassionate Grant

The Council is most anxious that a state of affairs be brought about by which harmonious relations will subsist again between the Council's officers responsible for guarding the camp and the interned officers and men. With this object in view the Council has decided that the officers, who at present are living apart from the men, are to be allowed to return to the Camp. It is the Council's earnest hope that these officers will assist the Council in carrying out the extremely difficult and delicate task imposed on the Council, through no wish of its own, of keeping order and discipline in the Camp."

The officers were returned to the Camp at 3.30 p.m. yesterday from their temporary quarters on in that employment has been found The Bund.

*File  
E.C.*

CHINA PRESS.

SEP 25 1938

Repatriation Impossible

## Talks Said Under Way But Lone Battalion To Remain

Reports that the Shanghai Municipal Council was considering the repatriation of members of the "Lone Battalion" were categorically denied by Mr. Eugene Y. B. Kiang, prominent local attorney and S.M.C. councillor, who is at present negotiating with Mr. Cornell S. Franklin, chairman of the S.M.C., on the future status of the interned soldiers.

Mr. Kiang has already held several lengthy conversations with Mr. Franklin regarding the soldiers since the S.M.C. chairman's return recently. While he denied that there was even a remote possibility of the soldiers being returned to the native homes, as the Chinese press would have it, he voiced hope that the "Lone Battalion" problem may be settled quickly and to the complete satisfaction of all concerned.

"The best that can be done," Mr. Kiang informed **THE CHINA PRESS**, "is to bring the Council and the soldiers together on a basis of mutual understanding."

The "Lone Battalion," it will be recalled, recently clashed with the Russian volunteers over a dispute concerning the hoisting of a Chinese National flag in their Kiaochow Road Camp in commemoration of the first anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities in Shanghai last August 12. In the subsequent fracas several of the interned soldiers were fatally wounded in the baton charges of the Russian Regiment.

To prevent similar disturbances, it will be remembered, the S.M.C. decided to separate the officers from their men.

SHANGHAI TIMES.

SEP 24 1938

## "LONE BATTALION" IS GETTING HOMESICK

Chinese Residents Ask  
Permission For Men  
To Leave City

Members of the "Lone battalion," who recently clashed with the Russian volunteers over the dispute of hoisting a Chinese national flag in commemoration of the first anniversary of the hostilities in Shanghai, resulting in several of them being fatally injured, may be asked to go to their respective native districts for a long rest according to a Chinese report.

Chinese public bodies in Shanghai may petition the Shanghai Municipal Council for permission to give members of the battalion travelling expenses so that they may go home instead of staying in the Kiaochow Road camp, where the recent trouble occurred.

Chinese members of the Council are said to have discussed the matter with foreign colleagues asking that the men be allowed to return home but no results have been obtained.

The question was not discussed at a recent meeting of the Council, but after the meeting there was an informal exchange of opinions on the subject, the reports states. The informal meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere, but no definite settlement was reached. Details for settling the incident may be decided upon in a week.

file

674/9



SHANGHAI EVENING POST & MERCURY.

SEP 1 1938

### The Lone Battalion

WITH THE RETURN to Shanghai of Mr. C.S. Franklin, American chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, it is expected that a final settlement of the dispute between the municipal authorities and the interned Chinese "Lone Battalion" will be forthcoming.

A great deal of feeling was stirred up among Chinese local residents over this case, which had many unfortunate aspects. Some time has now elapsed, and with the cooling of hot heads and a chance for sane discussion by sympathetic and neutral foreign municipal leaders, there is every reason to think that the matter can be smoothed over.

One important change should be made, in that there ought to be better liaison between the interned men and the municipal authorities. It is clear enough that the clash resulted chiefly through a lack of full understanding, and such a situation should never develop again. The entire foreign community has nothing but admiration for the character of the "Lone Battalion." At the same time the "Lone Battalion" must understand something of the difficulties with which the S.M.C. is confronted on many fronts and these difficulties should not, and need not, be multiplied.

The fact must be faced that despite Japanese hopes for an early settlement of the "China incident" favorable to themselves, nothing of the sort seems even remotely in prospect; which means that the interned battalion must remain as guest of the municipality for a while to come. Local Chinese have displayed understanding in quashing efforts to make political capital out of the recent clash. It now remains to settle the matter finally and to set up safeguards against any further misunderstanding or trouble which can benefit nobody.

11/9

File  
11/9

SEP 7 1937

## Settlement Looms In Camp Dispute

**Return of Mr. Franklin  
Awaited; Yu Ya Ching  
Sees General Hsieh**

A satisfactory solution of the dispute between the interned members of the Chinese so-called "Lone Battalion" and the Municipal authorities is awaited with the return of Mr. C. S. Franklin, Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, from holiday on September 13. The way towards a settlement has been paved, it is understood, at a series of conferences between Mr. Yu Ya-ching, a member of the Council, and General Hsieh Chin-yuan, the commander of the interned unit. These negotiations have now been completed.

A sanguinary riot of the "Lone Battalion" took place at their camp near Kiaochow Park on August 11, just preceding the first anniversary of the "Shanghai incident," and caused several deaths and the injury of scores of the Chinese soldiers and their Russian guards. The trouble, which had long been brewing, came to a head over the unauthorized hoisting, by the Chinese, of a large national flag. When members of the Russian Regiment, armed only with batons, were ordered by the camp commandant to remove the flag and flag-pole they were attacked with bottles, bamboos and other weapons obtained by the internees.

### Hunger Strike Falls

After this battle the approximately 350 Chinese soldiers went on a hunger strike, which they however soon afterwards abandoned. For the sake of discipline the Chinese commander and his officers were removed from the camp and placed in rooms of the Russian Regiment barracks on The Bund. There has been no trouble at the camp since, although Chinese military internees in the French Concession rioted a few days after the Kiaochow Park revolt.

The "Lone" or "Doomed" Battalion, as will be recalled by many in Shanghai, was the Chapei unit which was caught in a large godown, in Chinese territory, at the corner of North Thibet Road and North Soochow Road, when other Chinese troops evacuated Chapei last October. They were hemmed in by the Japanese on three sides while on the fourth they faced the British military sector in West Hongkew. They were finally liberated through the British sector late at night, taken to the Race Course under guard and thence to the internment camp off Kiaochow Road.

Although the members of the unit were described as crack troops of the 88th Division of the Chinese National Army, many of them when seen at close range turned out to be gawky youths in their teens. Their commander, Colonel Hsieh, was promoted to "general" over-night.

## Britain Wants 'Lone Battalion' Kept Protected

Official Opinion Would  
Not Favor Hand-Over  
Of Soldiers

British official opinion would not favor the handing over of China's "Diehard," the "Lone Battalion" of the 24th Division, to any authority outside of the International Settlement. The CHINA PRESS learned yesterday.

While taking a tolerant view of the incident, British authorities here yesterday pointed out that the Chinese soldiers interned in the Settlement were enjoying the hospitality of the S.M.C. and the protection of the S.M.C. They, therefore, should have given more consideration to the position of the Council than to have taken action which might have embarrassed not only the Settlement, but the safety of the "Lone Battalion" itself, it was stated.

THE CHINA PRESS understands that while the British Embassy here has received no official protest from the Chinese Government, it has been approached in writing by a number of organizations.

These communications are now under consideration by the British Ambassador, and will be replied to in the near future.

file  
Q 99

00557

8377/3  
23 9 31

# **What Happened in Japan**

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"

Sir,—Referring to an article on page 7 in your issue of today, i.e. "Insulting Attitude to Japanese", it surprises me that the writer in the "Mainichi" is so ignorant that he does not know that German prisoners in concentration camps in Japan during the World War, notably in 1915, and on other special occasions (exact dates not now available), were permitted to hoist their own flag in concentration camp! And even though Japan was then at war with Germany. The "Mainichi" firebrand should then ask himself why did not the S.M.C. permit the heroes of the Lo. 1 Battalion to hoist their flag recently. They certainly cannot be deprived of their nationality, nor of their adherence to the Chiang Kai-shek government; hence they have every right to use their flag. Many foreigners with whom I have spoken, including Germans, do not understand why the S.M.C. forbade the display of the flag. It was not out of regard for the feelings of any nationals, excepting the Japanese—the Japanese military authorities, these only. The writer in the "Mainichi" quite evidently goes out of his way to impair the friendly relations between Japanese and other nationals in this city. What his object may be I am at a loss to understand. Any sensible criticism of the action of the S.M.C. no one, may I say, would object to. A little ice on the "Mainichi's" writer's top-piece might help.

V. P.

Shanghai, Aug. 17.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom right of the page, including a large stylized 'R' and various numbers and initials.

# Attitude Of S. M. C. Over Camp Affair

Official Answer To All  
Protests Is Believed  
Hardly Probable

COUNCIL TOOK ONLY  
POSSIBLE STAND

Effort Will Be Put Forth  
To Explain Situation To  
Chinese Leaders

The official attitude of the Shanghai Municipal Council toward the protests which have been made by various Chinese public bodies in Shanghai regarding the "Lone Battalion" incident was explained here yesterday in a statement made by Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Secretary-General of the Council, to "The Shanghai Times."

Mr. Fessenden stated that it was unlikely that any formal answer would be given to the protests but an effort would be made to familiarize the officials of the various organizations which have made protests with the realities of the situation. It was further explained that discussions had already been held with a number of responsible Chinese.

In reviewing the events leading up to the incident, Mr. Fessenden stated that it would be necessary for those Chinese who had protested the intervention of the Russian Regiment to realize more fully the delicate situation which exists in Shanghai. The Shanghai Municipal Council, he indicated, has constantly attempted to minimize friction and maintain peace and order in the Settlement.

The official further explained that the request on the part of the "Lone Battalion" that it be allowed to fly a national flag was turned down on the grounds that it would only stir

up trouble. The soldiers also wished to fly the flag so that it could easily be seen from the outside of the camp.

## Were Not Invited

The Council did not wish to add to the tension prevailing at the time by allowing the soldiers to fly their flag, and, in any event, such a procedure with interned soldiers would have been almost unprecedented. In addition, the soldiers demanded that they be allowed to have firecrackers. Mr. Fessenden pointed out that these seemingly trivial incidents were but a climax to a long series of untoward circumstances in the camp.

He further explained that the Council would be only too glad to get rid of the "Lone Battalion" and that it had not invited the men into the settlement in the first place. With regard to reports that the present camp site might be changed, he stated that there was no apparent necessity for this and that the men would probably remain where they were.

In a local Chinese newspaper yesterday there appeared what purported to be an interview with Col. Hsieh Ching-yuan, former commanding officer of the "Lone Battalion," in which he reiterated his demands for the respiration of the flagpole, the punishment of the Russian Regiment and the payment of compensation to those Chinese who were injured.

8039 A/31  
14 5 38

### Don't Rock The Boat !

**A**N EDITORIAL in the *Wuhan Jih Pao* at Hankow reminds us that the Chinese are landlords and the Shanghai Municipal Council only tenants. This as preliminary to some bombastic remarks concerning the "Doomed Battalion" here, with whose plight all neutrals feel sympathy but with whose tactics most feel impatience.

Very well. If the matter were to be dismissed so simply, the Council would have no option other than to hand over the International Settlement to the Japanese who have taken all surrounding territory and who lost no time in seizing upon every available right or privilege formerly granted the Chinese within Council-controlled territory. Would that appeal to any Chinese, in Shanghai or out of it?

The obvious fact is that the landlord-tenant relation by no means represents the precise nature of Nationalist China and the Settlement, respectively, and such an organ as this *Kuomintang* newspaper is hurting Chinese best interests by such over-simplification which is directly in line with the propaganda of the Japanese. Somebody on the *Wuhan Jih Pao* actually belongs on the *Shanghai Nippo* or *Mainichi*.

Had the facts been as stated, Landlord Nanking would have gobbled Tenant Shanghai sometime between 1927 and 1937. Actually Shanghai has contrived to remain a sort of Switzerland, balanced precariously between the devil and the deep blue sea for many a year, and when the subject is viewed objectively over a long period of time it must be seen by any dispassionate person that this status has on the whole worked out best for everybody whether Chinese, Japanese, Briton, American or any other nationality. Such being the case, let's have a little less rocking of the boat.

22

19/8

THE tragic fracas between the Lone Battalion and the Russian S.V.C. is much to be deplored. We do not propose to defend the action of the doomed soldiers, nor are we inclined to the belief that the measures employed in silencing them were the only ones which could be effectively employed. The entire situation was unfortunate; the less said, the better for all concerned.

To the comments made by Mr. H. G. W. Woodhead, C. B. E., on this subject in *The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury*, however, we feel it necessary to take an exception. The views of this British publicist have been too long and too well known to call for refutation; but when he ventures, as he did in the present case, to give suppositions for facts, then the public should be acquainted with the correct facts.

In the beginning of his article Mr. Woodhead declares that "it is not uncharitable to assume that when the so-called 'Lone Battalion' staged its stand in a North Soochow Road godown on the Settlement boundary, this site was chosen with a view to a safe exit into the foreign area at the last moment."

This assumption is preposterous. If Mr. Woodhead had had a spark of human warmth in his heart, he would not have taken upon himself the onerous task of making an assumption against a group of Chinese defenders who earned the admiration not only of the local population but of the entire world.

For Mr. Woodhead's information the site in question was not chosen for a safe exit into the foreign area. If members of this battalion had desired to run for their lives, they could have withdrawn with the rest of the Chinese defense forces. The idea of seeking shelter in the foreign sanctuary was far removed from their minds. They stood their ground against all odds and were ready to resist the invaders to the last man.

But the question of the safety of residents on this side of the Settlement came to the fore. It was feared that should the Japanese continue bombing the godown in which the gallant defenders of China were operating, there might result casualties of innocent persons, Chinese and foreign alike.

It was upon the persuasion of the foreign authorities and after a petition to General Chiang Kai-shek that the members of the Lone Battalion finally decided to accept the offer of refuge in the Settlement. These are facts which should preclude any assumption, and in this instance Mr. Woodhead's assumption is as ludicrous as his general attitude toward China and the Chinese has always been.

Again we cannot help taking an exception to the veiled threat in his article not only to the members of the Lone Battalion but to the Chinese community as a whole.

He suggested that, if these disarmed soldiers did not like the conditions of their "internment," they should be delivered to the Japanese. Mr. Woodhead in one breath is arguing along the rudimentary principles of international law and in another betrays the grossest ignorance of the same principles. If it were taken for granted—as

the Shanghai Municipal Council would hardly take it for granted when its policy in general is taken into full account—that these soldiers are "prisoners of war," their misbehavior such as alleged by Mr. Woodhead does not necessarily confer on their "captors" the right to hand them over to the enemy. What is more, these soldiers were not "captured" by the municipal authorities, and we challenge Mr. Woodhead to produce evidence and legal authority to support his view that they are "prisoners of war."

What is even more preposterous is Mr. Woodhead's counsel to the responsible elements of the Chinese community to "keep their heads and recognize the implications of the situation." What are the implications? We do not know, but the worst cannot be other than the delivery of the Settlement on a silver platter to the Japanese military.

On this point we would like to call Mr. Woodhead's attention to our editorial comments shortly before the outbreak of hostilities in Shanghai. Then we urged the Council to define its policy in the event of war, and the same inquiry was reflected in the columns of the journal in which Mr. Woodhead contributes his weekly comment. From the Council there was no policy enunciated, and it was thus taken for granted that the Settlement would, as it did, maintain its international status.

At the time of the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Shanghai, the same question was raised. Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Secretary-General of the Council, gave official assurances that the status of the Settlement would be preserved intact.

It was on such an understanding that the Chinese community remained in Shanghai. It may be recalled that in spite of the official assurances there was an exodus of Chinese from this city, and our British morning contemporary, *The North China Daily News* under the able editorship of Mr. Edwin Haward, was quick to urge the Council to take measures to assure the Chinese so that they might stay behind for the recovery of Shanghai from the ravages of war.

Since then there has developed close co-operation between the Council and the Chinese community. That co-operation should not be exposed to such threats of a Japanese military regime in the Settlement as have been indulged in by irresponsible quarters or individuals.

If Mr. Woodhead is offering his advice that the Chinese should co-operate with the Council, such advice is uncalled for, because the Chinese have never ceased co-operating with the Council. If he thinks that because of such co-operation the Chinese should hold their tongues even in face of obvious injustice to their compatriots or of insult to their national honor, then he is sadly mistaken in his judgment both of the Chinese and of the Council. As far as we are aware, the Council is always sympathetic toward Chinese sentiments and aspirations. It is men of Mr. Woodhead's mentality who are creating an under-tone of uneasiness by veiled threats. If he and his ilk will keep their mental balance, Shanghai will keep its peace.

## Officers Silent On Battalion

Rumours Rife Owing To  
Secrecy; Unofficial  
Report Obtained

Officers of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps were maintaining a rigid silence in connection with the fate of the inmates of the "Lost Battalion" camp in Kiachow Road yesterday. Asked for a simple statement regarding the situation at the camp, they steadfastly refused to give out any information.

This continued silence gave rise to persistent rumours that things were not going so well in the camp and that the threatened hunger strike was in progress.

Through other sources it was ascertained, however, that a discussion had been held with several of the "Lost Battalion" non-commissioned officers and that they had shown a more friendly attitude towards the Settlement authorities.

In the meantime the officers were being held by the Russian Regiment in the billets on the Bund where there was no possibility of their influencing the men in the camp.

Through the intervention of the non-commissioned officers, it was hoped that the hunger strike would be definitely abandoned. It is unlikely, however, that the officers will again be returned to the camp. Especially in view of the fact that it has now been ascertained that a quantity of arms and ammunition were taken in a search following the riot which occurred last week.

File 10/18  
H L



## Two More Wounded Members Of "Lone Battalion" Succumb

Two more members of the "Lone Battalion" who were rushed to hospital for treatment following Thursday's clash with the Russian Regiment, in which the latter used batons, are reported to have died Sunday night. This brings the total number of deaths on the Chinese side to four. It was learned yesterday that, as a result of injuries received when the interned soldiers tossed bottles and stones, a member of the Russian Regiment is in danger of either losing the sight of one eye or having his vision permanently impaired.

Meanwhile, the men of the "Lone Battalion," now separated from Colonel Hsia Ching-yuan, their commander, and other senior officers, continued their hunger strike yesterday, the third day. They refused all food, but took water, however.

Colonel Hsia and officers of the battalion which made its famous

stand in the Joint Savings Society godown on North Soochow Road last year are still under guard at the headquarters of the Russian Regiment, in the former Mercantile Bank of China Building on the Bund.

Believing that these officers were instigating the rebellious behavior of the 300-odd interned soldiers, the S.V.C. authorities on Friday night decided to separate the officers from the men.

Meanwhile, Chinese reports reaching here indicated that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek is closely watching the affair. It is understood that the Generalissimo has requested Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, British Ambassador to China, to intervene in the dispute. The report stated that the British Ambassador, through the British charge d'affaires, was requested to ask for the release of the Battalion.

*(Handwritten signature and initials)*  
15/11

### **"Doomed Battalion" And Hankow**

HANKOW, August 12.—The Chinese press gives prominence to the clash yesterday in Shanghai between the "doomed battalion" and the Russian regiment of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps.

The Chinese press this morning bears a front page advertisement announcing the premiere showing to-night of the picture "Doomed Battalion."

The picture was produced by the Chinese Government studio, honouring the 800 men who defended the Chapel godown.—Reuter.

7

Dr

13/8

2

C

## Council Said Waiting New Turn In Camp

Hunger Strikers Will  
Be Allowed To Go  
For Full Day

**BELIEVE MATTER WILL  
SOLVE ITSELF SOON**

It was learnt here yesterday through officials of the Shanghai Municipal Council that no action will be taken in connection with the hunger strike being staged by the inmates of the "Lone Battalion" camp on Kiaochow Road for at least 24 hours. The opinion was expressed that many of the men would change their minds if they were given sufficient time to think things over and the Council is anxious to avoid friction in so far as possible.

The hunger strike which is now in progress in the camp is a sequel to the violent riot which was staged on Thursday by the erstwhile heroes of the Joint Savings Society Godown episode. A detachment from the Russian Regiment of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps was sent out to quell the disturbance which has resulted in the death of two Chinese and serious injuries to several.

Interviewed by a representative of "The Shanghai Times" yesterday afternoon, a high official of the Council stated that it was deeply regretted that force had to be used to bring the men to reason. He explained, however, that things had become intolerable in the camp and that the incident involving the setting up of the Kuomintang flag was not the real basis of the trouble.

### Arms Smuggling Suspected

The Council had good reason to believe that the inmates were trying to smuggle in arms and ammunition from the outside and therefore conducted frequent surprise searches. When the men refused to be searched it quite naturally aroused the gravest suspicions and some sort of action was necessary.

The camp was under heavy guard yesterday and it was impossible to ascertain the nature of the demands being made by the "Lone Battalion" through its hunger strike.

Eight members of the Russian detachment are being detained for treatment in the General Hospital for injuries suffered during the raid. It is believed that one of the men may lose the sight of one eye, while another has suffered very serious stomach injuries.

13/8

ra  
Et

## ["Doomed Battalion" On Hunger Strike, Wants Flagpole Back

The hunger strike started by members of the "Doomed Battalion" in their concentration camp Thursday night as a protest against the forcible removal by the S.V.C. of their flagpole, was still underway last night.

Although the Shanghai Municipal Council and officials in charge of the camp were reticent on the subject of the hunger strike, it was learned from other sources that all members of the battalion not in the hospital refused to eat throughout the day yesterday.

When vegetable hawkers put in their appearance at the camp yesterday morning, a routine matter with the hawkers, they were informed by the soldiers that their vegetables were not wanted for the simple reason that they had no intention of eating until the Council

had complied with their demands. While the Council was not doing any talking about these alleged demands, it was understood that the soldiers want their flag-pole back, punishment of the officers of the Russian Regiment who removed their flagpole, causing injury to some 57 members of their personnel.

The two members of the battalion who died late Thursday night at the police hospital were Yu Chang-chun and Lin Chong-tai, ranks unknown. The other 14 still in the hospital will probably recover, it was reported last night, although their condition is said to be serious.

Aside from the continuation of the hunger strike, no new developments in the "Doomed Battalion" case were reported last night. It is understood that the authorities are taking no effort to stop the strike.

**Hankow Press Plays  
Up Clash Of "Doomed  
Battalion", S. V. C.**

HANKOW, Aug. 12.—(Reuters)  
—The Chinese press gives pro-  
minence to the clash yesterday  
in Shanghai between the "doom-  
ed battalion" and the Russian  
regiment of the Shanghai Volun-  
tee Corps.

The Chinese press this morn-  
ing bears a front page advertise-  
ment announcing the premier  
showing tonight of the picture  
"Doomed Battalion."

The picture was produced by  
the Chinese Government studio,  
honoring the 800 men who de-  
fended the Chapel godown

R

13

## Lost Battalion Refuses To Eat

### Hunger Strike Staged As Sequel To Riot; Two Succumb

Refusing to eat dinner last night, the officers and men of the "Lost Battalion" of the 88th Division lodged in the Singapore Road internment barracks since their withdrawal from the Joint Savings Bank godown on North Soochow Road, this morning continued their hunger strike as a protest against the forcible removal by the S.V.C. of the flag pole from the barracks yesterday afternoon.

When vegetable hawkers made their daily calls this morning to deliver food, soldiers at the barracks turned them away and announced their intention to go on a fast "as long as necessary."

#### Now Incommunicado

The exact nature of their demands, which they are apparently attempting to force the Municipal Council to accept through their hunger strike, could not be ascertained this morning inasmuch as the "Lost Battalion" was incommunicado today.

Everything was quiet at the Singapore Road barracks this morning. The soldiers were walking about or sitting quietly outside their barracks, which still showed scars of yesterday's melee. The entrance to the barracks, however, is heavily guarded.

No fresh development was reported by the Municipal Council. It is understood that no disciplinary action was to be taken in the immediate future against the Chinese soldiers. Nor will any action be taken immediately in connection with the hunger strike although it is generally expected that Chinese community leaders will mediate.

#### Two Die

It was ascertained this morning that two of the injured "Lost Battalion" members succumbed at the Police Hospital last night. They were Yu Chang-chun and Iip Chong-tai, ranks unknown. Fourteen others, seriously injured, are still detained while 30 others, less seriously hurt, are in the Singapore Road barracks after medical treatment.

In the General Hospital, eight members of Russian Regiment, S.V.C., are still detained for treatment of injuries received during the clashes yesterday. They are: Pavloff, Sonoff, Petroff, Pisareff, Boninsky, Bakakin, Bigabaeff, and Petroff. Although the condition of some of them are said to be serious, all of them are expected to recover.

The clash yesterday afternoon was result of a dispute over the flag-pole which the Chinese soldiers insisted on erecting in their barracks. The Council's order that it be removed was met with defiance and force was used to execute the order, resulting in the fracas.

### Passing The Buck

**A** BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE of municipal "buck-passing" was registered yesterday in connection with the trouble in the "Lost Battalion" camp.

On receipt of first word, newspapermen tried to check with the Shanghai Municipal Police who, not having charge of the camp, referred the queries over to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps.

The S.V.C. referred to the Shanghai Municipal Council.

Then the Shanghai Municipal Council referred back to the S.V.C.

And an hour after the trouble was all over, a high S.V.C. official put on a great "act" of astonishment and incredulity.

Hours after that it was still impossible to get accurate figures on casualties or full details of precisely what had happened—while all manner of rumors floated about, inquirers phoned in lurid stories of seeing trucks fly past full of wounded and bloody men, and in general there was uncertainty and alarm completely at variance with what should prevail in such a time of emergency.

The public has a right to know, speedily and accurately. We hold that authorities who suppress or mislead are serving the very forces of unrest which they profess to combat.

### The Lost Battalion

IT IS UNFORTUNATE but humanly explicable that the heroic "Lost Battalion" of China's 88th Division should have become involved in such a serious, yet essentially childish, affair as that of their clash yesterday with the Russian Regiment.

The debit side against these 300-odd men is easy to make out. They have enjoyed the hospitality of the International Settlement for months after taking refuge there from what would otherwise have been certain death. It was clearly their place to observe with scrupulous care such restrictions as necessity caused the foreign authorities to impose on them. Instead they developed a touchy patriotism which insisted on the hoisting of their national flag, and for this it was necessary that they be corrected. For although they are not prisoners of war, they are interned in an area still maintaining a rather precarious neutrality, and for the welfare of these men and the thousands of Chinese about them it was impossible that they be allowed to do precisely as they pleased while receiving what is in no way imprisonment, but pure protection.

One would think that the lesson of Nanking would be clear enough for even the most ignorant or reckless to read.

But let us look at another side. These men have been idle, cooped up where there was little to do but gossip and develop notions. Without a doubt they have been subjected to the influence of plenty of amateur political experts within their own number, and even possibly from outside. We imagine they have been repeatedly told that the Settlement is China, that extraterritoriality is a brief privilege soon to be wrested from the foreigner, that their own withdrawal into the Settlement was at third-party request for protection of the foreign areas, and all manner of similar things tending to develop a state of mind quite out of line with the realities. Their actions show it.

However out of patience we may tend to become over this apparent ingratitude and stubborn wrong-headedness, it is our duty to take the larger viewpoint and support the authorities in a firm but dispassionate administration of this difficult problem.

Merely because in some respects these interned men now seem a little childish and arrogant is in no way an excuse for others to take either a childish or an ungenerous attitude.

The "Lost Battalion" cannot do as it wishes in every respect, true. Discipline must be maintained and rules obeyed, including rules against any aggressive and provocative display of patriotism. But we can afford to enforce these measures and stop. Nothing in the slightest degree savoring of vindictiveness must be thought of for a moment.

And it impresses us that to provide more constructive employment for these men would be a smart enterprise for the responsible authorities. Satan finds mischief for idle hands, in China just as elsewhere.



# "Lost Battalion" Clash With Russian Regiment S.V.C., Over Flag-Pole

Three Chinese Rumored Killed, 90 Injured  
In Severe Fight At Kiaochow Road  
Barracks; Tension Prevails

## ROADS TO AREA BLOCKED OFF

Repeating the fireworks by which they held out in the Joint Savings Bank godown at North Soochow Road last November against a siege by Japanese armed forces, the 300-odd Chinese soldiers of the famous "Lost Battalion" of the 88th Division clashed with men of the Russian Regiment, Shanghai Volunteers' Corps, at their barracks on Kiaochow Road shortly before noon today.

With all roads roped off and no one allowed to get near the scene of the melee, the casualties caused by the clash could not be ascertained at press time. It was rumored, however, that some Chinese soldiers were killed, over a score injured while the Russian regiment suffered several injured. This, however, could not be verified. Several Chinese soldiers were seen under S.V.C. detention with bandaged heads and other injuries.

According to information available at press time, the Russian Regiment arrived at the scene in 10 to 12 trucks to remove a Chinese national flag hoisted on a new flag-pole this morning. The soldiers, maintaining the rights to display their national emblem, refused admittance and the two forces clashed at 12.15. The soldiers are said to have fought the Russians with empty bottles and stones while the latter retaliated and blasted their way into the barracks with batons and rifle bolts. No shots, as far as could be ascertained, were fired during the melee.

### Gain Control

The Russian Regiment eventually gained control of the barracks, removed the flag and searched the barracks thoroughly.

High officials of the Council, S.V.C. and S.M.P. when approached this afternoon, refused to divulge any information regarding the clash. It is understood, however, a statement will be issued later.

### Comes To A Head

The dispute over the flag raising was the immediate cause of the clash although an accumulated number of incidents had strained relations between the Council and the "Lost Battalion" for some time.

The flag-pole was erected at the camp by the Chinese soldiers, who were withdrawn from the Joint Savings Bank building on North Soochow Road. Their intention to hoist a national flag in the camp caused consternation among the Council authorities and negotiations were started for its removal.

Colonel Hsia Ching-yuan, commander of the battalion, rejected the request, claiming that he and

his men are not war prisoners but had been withdrawn into the Settlement by order of his superiors, who acted at an alleged request made by third powers in view of the fact that their continued resistance in the godown would endanger the Settlement. It was only through protracted sessions that the "Lost Battalion" agreed to cut the pole eight feet shorter. This was done last night.

### Force Said Threatened

Then the question of flag-raising took place. The Council, it was reported, had given the understanding that the flag might only be hoisted on anniversary days—the first of which will be Saturday, first anniversary of the Shanghai battle. The "Lost Battalion," however, claimed the right to hoist the flag any time it likes. Accordingly, they hoisted the flag this morning, resulting in a reported S.M.P. decision to remove the flag even by force.

It is said that the incident today was not the first. A platoon of S.V.C. members was sent to the barracks to search for firearms reported to be hidden in the camp. Colonel Hsia emphatically refused to be subjected to the search, demanding their source of information and formal documents. He refused to issue the order to his subordinates to subject themselves to the search.

### Volunteers Left

The volunteers then walked out of headquarters to proceed with the search but were blocked by the soldiers, who would not submit to the search unless ordered by their superior. Unable to make the search, the volunteers left after being assured by Colonel Hsia that he may be held responsible in the event any firearms eventually turn up in his barracks, it is said.

Colonel Hsia had been repeatedly protesting over the status given them by the Settlement authorities. They claim that they were promised to be returned to the 88th Division when they evacuate the "godown-castle" and declare they are not war prisoners but had entered the Settlement at the request of the foreign powers.

File  
S.V.C.  
178  
72

# Two Die, 55 Injured As "Lone Battalion" Battles S. V. C. Unit

Free-For-All Fought In  
Singapore Rd. Camp  
For Soldiers

**BOTTLES, BATONS  
USED IN MELEE**

Four Russians Put In  
Hospital, Two Said  
Badly Injured

Two Chinese soldiers, severely injured in yesterday's free-for-all between the members of the "Doomed Battalion" and the Russian unit of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, died in the Police Hospital at midnight.

A dispute over a flagpole yesterday led to a pitched battle between members of the "Doomed Battalion," heroes of the siege of the Joint Savings Society godown in Chapel last November and members of the Russian Regiment, Shanghai Volunteer Corps.

The fracas took place inside the concentration camp, on Singapore Road, where the Chinese soldiers, about 400 in number, have been held since they evacuated the godown and entered the Settlement last year.

The time of the scrap was about 11 a.m. It is claimed by the Settlement authorities that the Chinese soldiers attacked forces of the Russian Regiment with bottles.

When the smoke of battle had cleared away, four Russians and 16 Chinese were receiving hospital treatment. Fifty-seven members of the "Doomed Battalion" were taken to the hospital after the fracas but 41 had sustained only scratches and bruises and were sent home after treatment. Fourteen other Russians received slight scratches and bruises, but remained on duty. They were given first aid on the spot.

Early reports circulated to the effect that three of the soldiers had been killed were denied last night by the Shanghai Municipal Council. Reports that shots had been fired also were denied.

## Official Report

While officers of the British military force in Shanghai, in charge of the camp, refused to give any information to the press, the Shanghai Municipal Council yesterday afternoon issued an official statement on the subject of the scrap. It follows:

"In view of what happened today in the camp where the Chinese 'Lone Battalion' is interned, the following information has been made available to the press.

"It has been found recently by the Camp Commandant that it was becoming increasingly difficult, and at times impossible, to enforce any kind of discipline in the camp. Attempts to enforce any kind of discipline in the camp were met with obstruction. Recently an attempt to carry out a search of the camp, which had been done on occasions before, was objected to.

## Matter Reaches Head

"The matter came to a head on July 21 over the unauthorized erection of a flagpole which had been smuggled into the camp by the Chinese internees. The Council was unwilling to be put in the position of being forced to remove the pole, as it did not wish to offend the susceptibilities of the Chinese internees in the matter of touching their national flag.

"Repeated attempts were made, both by Council officials and by prominent Chinese residents of the Settlement, to persuade the responsible officers in the camp to take down the flagpole. The flagpole was in fact, taken down on the evening of August 10. Early in the morning of August 11, however, the camp commandant was asked whether he would give permission for a large parcel of firecrackers to be brought into the camp.

## Firecrackers Denied

"When the commandant stated that he could not possibly comply with this unreasonable request, the flagpole was immediately re-erected, though in shortened form, and the flag was hoisted.

"The responsible Chinese officers in the camp were then informed by the camp commandant that unless they took the flagpole down forthwith it would be taken down by force with the aid of the Russian Regiment.

"This order was not complied with,

*Handwritten:*  
R  
Jul 21/8  
Lig  
E

and after about 10 minutes the commandant sent in his Russians to remove the flagpole. On entering they were met by a rush of Chinese soldiers who attacked with bottles and wounded four Russians.

"The Russians were then ordered to drive the Chinese back with their batons. In the course of this operation a number of Chinese were injured by batons. The flagpole was then removed and a thorough search made of the camp.

"About 16 of the injured Chinese will be detained in the hospital, while the remainder were suffering from superficial injuries only."

#### Long Battle

The Russian Regiment turned out to the scene of the argument shortly before 10 a.m. and did not leave the premises until after 2.30 p.m., fair indication that the battle was something of a rather hot affair.

Newspapermen and photographers were not permitted inside the gates and an air of mystery shrouded the entire affair until 4.30 p.m. when the Council issued its official statement.

Foreign observers, however, who happened to be on Singapore Road at the time the Russians started removing the injured from the camp, informed THE CHINA PRESS last night that three trucks were used for this bit of transportation work.

In the first truck to leave the place, 37 injured soldiers were carried out. The second truck took 12 to the hospital while six were transported in the third truck, making a total of 57.

The scrap between the Russians and the soldiers started shortly after 11 a.m. and it lasted for more than 10 minutes. The first melee was brought to an end in about 20 minutes but trouble still continued on the lot.

It was not until after noon that the affair had been placed under control sufficiently to start sending the injured to the police hospital. The business of removing the wounded had been completed by 3 p.m.

Most of the injured soldiers, suffering from bumps on the head and cuts about the face, managed to get into the trucks under their own steam. Seventeen were carried to the trucks in stretchers and blankets.

#### Ambulances Not Used

The entire affair was handled by the Russian Regiment, which also turned out its trucks about 10 a.m. The police had no official information on the affair until late in the afternoon, and their assistance was not requested.

The reason the wounded were taken to the hospital in trucks and not in emergency ambulances of the Shanghai Fire Brigade was explained by the authorities last night as being quite simple.

Fire brigade ambulances, during the past two weeks, have been almost constantly in operation removing cholera cases from the streets and alleys of the city. This is also the case with practically every available isolation hospital ambulance in the city. In many instances, it has been even necessary to use other types of vehicles to handle the cholera cases taken from refugee camps. Using trucks to remove the injured soldiers was a matter of convenience, officials stated.

First aid was given the injured men on the spot by Public Health Department workers. Doctors attached to the Russian Regiment also assisted in treating the injured Chinese soldiers after they had taken care of the wounded Russians.

Two of the four Russians now in the hospital last night were reported to have been badly injured, having sustained severe cuts about the face and body. They will remain in the hospital for a considerable length of time, it was stated. The other two probably will be able to leave within a week.

Of the 16 Chinese soldiers receiving hospital treatment, five are said to be in a serious condition. The report was circulated last night that one had died but this could not be confirmed.

The scrap caused considerable excitement in the Singapore Road area. The entire population of a large refugee camp located not far from the concentration camp turned out in an effort to find out what had happened, making it necessary for the authorities to rope off the street.

Inquiry made last night as to what disciplinary action, if any, might be taken against the interned Chinese soldiers, failed to produce any information on the subject. The authorities in charge of the camp were simply not talking.

27059

# Exciting Scenes When Chinese In Fort Make Final Dash Over Bridge

Over 400 Men Of "Suicide Battalion" Come Into Settlement In Early Hours Of This Morning; Disarmed By Foreign Troops This Side

## VERITABLE HAIL OF LEAD BY JAPANESE AS RUSH TO SAFETY MADE

One of the most dramatic episodes in the history of Shanghai occurred here in the early hours of this morning as several hundred soldiers from the famous "Suicide Battalion" dashed to safety across the Tibet Road Bridge under a merciless rain of gunfire. The whole of Yu Ya Ching Road for several blocks into the Settlement was raked by flying bullets.

The Chinese left their post fiercely fighting their Japanese attackers and handed over their smoking guns to British troops stationed at the Settlement boundary. It was reported at 2 o'clock that about 400 men had crossed the bridge, and others were still coming.

This astounding development followed close upon the heels of a series of stirring episodes earlier in the evening. At an early hour

last night preparations were being made to bring the "Doomed Battalion" across Soochow Creek into Settlement after its gallant stand in the Joint Savings Society godown, where it was stranded following the general withdrawal from Chapei.

### To Concentration Camp

It is understood that the men will be kept in a concentration camp somewhere in Shanghai until the termination of the current hostilities.

It was shortly before midnight that the report that the famous battalion would be brought to safety leaked out and spread like wildfire throughout the city. At that time it was stated that the Chinese defenders

had agreed to give up their improvised fort at the urgent request of several foreign Consular officials in Shanghai who contended that the hostilities centred upon the Joint Savings Society godown were a menace to the safety of the Settlement.

Proceeding to the scene just as the preliminary arrangements were in full swing, a representative of "The Shanghai Sunday Times" was witness to the dramatic spectacle of long lines of uniformed men being drawn up in preparation for receiving the battalion. Just inside the barbed wire barrier thrown across Yu Ya Ching Road a long line of black marines was drawn up.

In a final check-up made last night it was ascertained that a number of the men, many of whom were wounded, had been taken to the Embankment Hudding.

### Earlier Japanese Threat

The eyes of all Shanghai, and perhaps the better part of the world, were to be focused to-day on the beleaguered "Death-with-Honour" troops holding out in the two godowns on North Soochow Road against Japanese marines, following the threat made by the Japanese command yesterday morning to blow the Chinese out of their stronghold, which they have

C.

While the announcement was being made by Rear-Admiral Tadao Honda, Japanese naval attache, that, as the time limit for the withdrawal of the Chinese unit had expired, the Japanese forces will be compelled to resort to arms to annihilate them, a letter was received this side of the Creek from Regimental Commander Hsieh Chin-yuan, who heads the gallant defenders. The letter states that the men have no intention whatsoever of giving up their position, but intend to die to the last man, fighting.

All possible precautions have been taken both by the British and American military authorities to protect the men occupying the Sectors immediately facing the godowns, which have now been made world famous. However, it is the British nor the Americans will retire any distance from their outposts, despite the warning issued by the Japanese.

### Dangerous Positions

At the present time men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers occupy Blockhouse "F" which is less than 50 yards away from the Continental Bank godown on North Soochow Road, while the U.S. Fourth Marines are holding the "ringside" seats to the whole affair on the south side of the creek, west of Yu Ya Ching Road.

While the Shanghai Gas Company has taken all necessary precautions against the possibility of gas tanks on Yu Ya Ching Road being hit by any of the large calibre missiles, thus causing an explosion or fire, crowds of foreigners and Chinese continued to watch the godown and the activity of both the Japanese and Chinese, throughout the day from vantage points in the International Settlement.

### Defence Works

After three days and nights of feverish construction, strong defence works for the Joint Savings and Trust Company godown on North Soochow Road, the headquarters of the dare-to-die Chinese lone battalion, have now almost been completed.

This is according to Regimental Commander Hsieh Chin-yuan, who chose to remain with the battalion to fight the Japanese forces to the last drop of blood, in a letter addressed to Lieut.-General Sun Yuan-liang, Commander of the 88th Division.

### No Publicity Stunt

The lone battalion, the letter stresses, chose to remain behind for the defence of Chapei merely out of a sense of duty and patriotism, and not for the sake of publicity.

"Up till now," Commander Hsieh states, "I have not given any press interview nor made any demands on the public. Whatever has been printed in the press emanates purely from our side."

Night and day, the letter says, members of the battalion have been thinking of nothing else but the determination to die to the last man, in order to accomplish their mission.

"Death is not an important issue," the letter continues, "but we wish to inform you that before our mission is accomplished we will not make our sacrifices lightly."

Speculation has been rife for the past two days as to what method the Japanese will employ in order to get the Chinese out and take over the two godowns, the last remaining stronghold of the Chinese in Chapei. It is generally believed that the Japanese will bomb the two godowns; on the other hand this method is likely to bring complications in view of the close proximity of the foreign sectors.

With several houses some distance to the north-west of the godowns having been set on fire yesterday and having burned out by nightfall it is believed that the Japanese have been clearing a view from some distance in order to bring howitzers into action against the isolated unit in the godowns.

Complete destruction of the godowns is neither the object of the Chinese nor the Japanese as large quantities of rice and grain are stored in them.

### French Mortars Fired

Trench mortars were brought into action by the Japanese yesterday morning, considerably damage to the western wall of the Joint Savings Society Godown being done by the firing. Several shells fell on North Soochow Road not far from Blockhouse "F." Chinese defenders, however, had the better of the Japanese at closer quarters, when they fired on the Japanese marines walking on the roof of an adjoining godown, which is considerably lower than the Joint Savings Society Godown building.

"Our godown is glorified by the presence of the lone Chinese battalion, who are resolved to fight to the last. We will never regret even if the structure should be completely destroyed by the Japanese," stated Mr. Y. M. Chien, assistant general manager of the Joint Savings Society, commenting on the situation. The name of the godown, he added, would go on record with the battalion for their epic struggle against stupendous odds.

### Japanese Statement

The Japanese armed forces have completed preparations for dislodging Chinese troops from their stronghold in the Joint Savings Society's godown, on North Soochow Road, Rear-Admiral Tadao Honda, naval attache to the Japanese Embassy, announced yesterday morning.

Residents living in proximity to the godown were asked by the officer to take all necessary precautions to safeguard themselves during the Japanese attack.

"If the Chinese soldiers entrenched in the godown continue their resistance," Rear-Admiral Honda's prepared statement read, "we shall be forced to resort to arms to annihilate them."

M

27060

"As is generally known, a part of the Chinese troops whose retreat from Chapei was cut off by the Special Naval Landing Party sought refuge in the godown.

"Moved by our desire to spare the lives of the Chinese soldiers from the standpoints of humanity and Bushido on the one hand, and on the other hand to avoid complications arising out of the geographical position of the godown, the Naval Landing Party had taken every possible step to persuade the Chinese to leave the godown.

"Nevertheless, the Chinese unit showed no signs of accepting our generous and amicable proposal in the ecstasy of being hailed as 'national heroes.'

#### **Plans Completed**

"The Special Naval Landing Party of the Imperial Navy completed its preparations to dislodge the Chinese from their position on Thursday.

"The Naval Landing Party realizes that the attack on the godown, in view of its proximity to the British and American defence sectors, might result in complications.

"It must be realized by all, however, that Japan cannot delay the attack indefinitely. Now the time limit set by us for the withdrawal of the Chinese has expired.

"Should they continue to resist our bluejackets and hold their present position, the Japanese forces will be compelled to resort to arms to annihilate them.

"The residents in the area adjacent to the godown are urged to take all necessary precautions to safeguard themselves during the Japanese attack."

#### **Courageous Girl Guide**

It was revealed here last night, according to the "Lih Pao," that the new Chinese flag on the godowns, a gift from the Shanghai Civic Association, was "smuggled" into the headquarters of the dare-to-die battalion by a girl scout, Miss Yang Hyi-min, on Thursday night.

While details were not given as to how she did it, her courageous act was reported to have aroused city-wide admiration.

Aged 24 and a native of Chinkiang, Miss Yang enrolled as a girl scout shortly after the outbreak of the Shanghai hostilities. During the Manchurian crisis, she joined a Chinese volunteer corps in the north-east, where she had been doing publicity work for more than two years.

27000

# Chinese Battalion Evacuates Godown On N. Thibet Road

## Fire Breaks Out In Top Story After Heavy Artillery Battle

**Heavy Fighting Preludes Withdrawal; Japanese  
Train Artillery Directly On Building;  
British Offer Safe Conduct**

The Chinese "doomed battalion" in the Joint Savings Society godown on North Thibet Road evacuated into the Settlement at an early hour this morning.

After resisting everything the Japanese Navy had to offer for nearly four days, members of the battalion began to trickle out after midnight in small parties. By 2 o'clock this morning, more than 360 had been conducted to the Embankment Building by the British authorities.

Long before the last man had evacuated, Japanese guns had fired the top floor of the main godown. The field pieces were placed between the two godowns and were pointed at the top stories less than 40 yards from the big windows.

Shot and shell flew in all directions from 11 p.m. up until the time that the men decided definitely to withdraw. Residents living in the Louza District thought hell itself had turned loose.

It was reported that the Chinese had decided upon this action after representations had been made by foreign authorities asking them to enter the Settlement on the grounds that their presence in the Joint Savings Society godown was seriously endangering areas south of Soochow Creek.

### Danger Of Explosion

It was further stated that these representations were made when officials of the Shanghai Gas Company took alarm at the statement made by the Japanese yesterday that arrangements for launching a heavy offensive against the godown had been undertaken.

The possibility of a badly aimed Japanese aerial bomb was considered so great that the gas tank might be blown up with severe damage to the entire district. The tank is located just across Yu Ya Ching Road bridge on the south side of the creek.

Rapidly becoming as famous as the valiant 600 horsemen of Crimean War fame, immortalized by Lord Alfred Tennyson in "The Charge of the Light Brigade," the "doomed battalion" of the crack 88th Division grimly continued to hold out yesterday against the efforts of the Japanese navy to dislodge it and remove the Chinese flag from Chapel.

Throughout the day, the Japanese kept up constant machine-gun fire against the Joint Savings Society godown on the corner of North Thibet and North Soochow Roads in Chapel. Rifle-grenades were also used while fieldpieces west of the Continental Bank godown did a bit of shelling but to little avail.

Strong defense works for the godown had been completed by the defending Chinese troops, according to a letter passed out of the place by Colonel Hsieh Chin-yuan, commanding the detachment, and addressed to Lt.-Gen. Sun Yuan-liang, commander of the 88th Division. The letter, dated October 29, sheds much light hitherto undisclosed on the drama of gallantry and bravery now being enacted before the eyes of Shanghai's millions.

### 80 Japanese Killed

On October 27, the letter reports, the Japanese in an unsuccessful attempt to storm the godown, suffered heavy casualties, leaving more than 80 dead bodies behind them.

"Shortly after 6 a.m. on October 28," Colonel Hsieh states, "I shot dead two Japanese soldiers myself." He added that the lone battalion chose to remain behind for the defense of Chapel merely out of a sense of duty and patriotism and not for the sake of publicity.

In another letter to Major-General Feng Sheng-fah, deputy commander of the 88th, Colonel Hsieh says that for the shedding of their blood they must demand a costly price from the Japanese.

Another letter which has a bearing on the situation is one from Lt.-Gen. Sun, written to Mr. Tu Yueh-sen, prominent banker and chairman of the Chinese Residents Civic Association.

General Sun expressed appreciation to the public for their great interest shown in the welfare of the lone battalion and for the large quantities of foodstuffs and other things presented to them.

The people, however, were asked not to continue sending things to the beleaguered warriors, because so many things are easily perishable, and besides, they have enough food stores to hold out for a long time.

### Give To Liberty Bonds

Money intended for the purpose, in Commander Sun's opinion, should be devoted to the purchase of Liberty Bonds or donated toward the fund for providing pensions for the families of officers and soldiers killed during the hostilities.

"Our godown is glorified by the presence of the lone Chinese battalion which is resolved to fight to the last. We will never regret the loss, even if the structure should be completely destroyed by the Japanese."

This statement was made yesterday by Mr. Y. M. Chien, assistant general manager of the Joint Savings Society, in connection with the occupation of the bank's warehouse by the "doomed battalion."

### "Chinese Who Won't Get Out"

The name of the godown, said Mr. Chien, would go on record with the battalion for their epic struggle against stupendous odds.

The presence of the battalion in the godown bought forth a variety of statements from the Japanese. Two days ago, they were referred to as "stragglers" yesterday they were officially known in Japanese circles as the "Chinese in the godown who won't get out."

### Another Chinese Flag Flying

Instead of one, two Chinese flags were flying yesterday from two godowns.

The second flag, like the first one, was "smuggled" into the Chinese citadel.

During the four days the lone battalion kept the Japanese at bay, attention of the entire world was attracted to the gallant stand made by the Chinese. Foreign observers considered it another Alcazar but forgot that this fortress had glass windows.

On the other hand the moral effect which the episode had was not underestimated. Sooner or later, it was generally agreed that the overwhelming force of enemy mechanized units or aircraft would achieve their objective, but because the defenders were willing to flout this very force, it made their stand even the more impressive.

*[Handwritten signatures and marks at the bottom right of the page.]*

August 19, 1939.

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"INTERRED CHINESE SOLDIERS IN THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS  
SHOULD BE HANDED OVER TO JAPANESE ARMY"

The Tairiku Shimpō publishes the following comment:-

We have raised a question about the feeding of the interned Chinese soldiers at the expense of the S.L.C. In this connection Commander Hsia of the interned soldiers has published a declaration refuting our protest.

In his declaration Commander Hsia maintains that the soldiers had surrendered voluntarily in compliance with a decision reached by the Consular Body in order to remove the danger to life and property in the Foreign Settlements. He also protests against the treatment of the interned soldiers.

In connection with the question of expenses, Commander Hsia states that between October, 1937 and November, 1938, local relief associations had been paying for their upkeep and between December, 1938 and August this year the S.L.C. had advanced \$40,500 for this purpose, but against this the Chungking Government has already paid \$43,600 to the S.M.C. Therefore, there is still a balance of \$3,100 in the hands of the S.L.C.

We do not know whether Hsia's statement is true or not, however, we expect that the S.M.C. will make an explanation regarding the matter.

The source of the funds for the upkeep of the interned soldiers is a secondary question. What we demand is that all interned soldiers be handed over to the Japanese authorities as they are in an area under the control of the Japanese army.

Besides the interned soldiers from the Four Banks' godown, the records of other soldiers who had entered the Foreign Settlements and the arms seized from them should also be handed over to the Japanese authorities. According to an investigation made, about 7,000 soldiers have entered the foreign areas.

The authorities of the Foreign Settlements may attempt to hide the presence of these soldiers on the ground that the Foreign Settlements constitute neutral ground, but we claim that as the foreign areas are in an occupied area, we cannot recognize their neutrality.

Last year the interned soldiers in the Kiaochow Road Camp attempted to hoist the Kuomintang flag and caused serious trouble with the Russian guards, resulting in bloodshed. They are now reported to be attempting to regain their freedom as quickly as possible. They are under the protection of the S.M.C. yet they have adopted a hostile attitude towards Japan.

There is stronger ground for the handing over of the interned soldiers than for the extradition of the four offenders in Tientsin.

August 16, 1939.

TAIRIKU SHIMPO

"JAPANESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE CHINESE  
INTERNED SOLDIERS"

The 230 odd Chinese soldiers of the 88th Division of the National Government's Army have been interned in the camp on Kiaochow Road since their surrender to the British Defence Force. As remarked yesterday by this paper, these soldiers have been and are still being kept at the expense of the S.M.C. since the withdrawal of the National Government from Nanking.

Japan is one of the member Powers responsible for the International Settlement; furthermore Shanghai lies in the area under the occupation of the Japanese army. We cannot overlook the fact that these enemy soldiers, who had fought our soldiers in Shanghai, are now being protected and fed by the S.M.C. It is reported that the Japanese military authorities will request the S.M.C. to hand over the interned soldiers on the following grounds:-

- 1) From the viewpoint of the removal of anti-Japanese elements, the question of the upkeep of interned soldiers by the S.M.C. cannot be overlooked as the International Settlement lies in an occupied area and has no neutrality.
- 2) In the Tientsin issue, the British authorities have already promised to hand over the four offenders responsible for the murder of the Customs Commissioner; therefore, there is no reason for the Municipal authorities here to refuse to hand over the interned soldiers to Japan as she is one of the member Powers interested in Municipal affairs.
- 3) Should the S.M.C. reject the demand to hand over the interned soldiers, it will be regarded as an organ of the Chungking Government and not as an international organization for it has violated its international character. Various quarters are hoping that the Japanese military authorities will take strong measures in this connection.

Besides the above issue, another question has been raised about the attitude of the S.M.C. towards the large number of Chinese soldiers who entered the International Settlement during the local hostilities. It is believed that about 8,000 soldiers had entered the Foreign Settlements from Chapel and Nantao during the three months of local hostilities and were liberated after they had been disarmed by the authorities. Naturally the authorities concerned must have kept records of the number of persons and the quantity of arms surrendered. These records must be handed to the Japanese authorities to be used in dealing with the Foreign Settlements which lies in occupied area.

Where these disarmed soldiers are now and what they are doing, it is not known, but most of them are believed to be engaged in anti-Japanese activities. It is reported that arms of various descriptions are being sold in the Foreign Settlements at cheap prices. This would seem to suggest that the arms seized from interned soldiers by the Settlement authorities are being handed out to the public. The authorities of the Foreign Settlements, by refusing to hand over to the Japanese authorities the records of the number of interned soldiers and of the arms seized from them, are demonstrating a hostile attitude. The Japanese military authorities are paying close attention to these points.



August 15, 1939.

TAIPEKU SHIMPO

"S.M.C., BY FEEDING AND PROTECTING INTERNED CHINESE  
SOLDIERS FROM THE FOUR BANKS GODOWN, DEMONSTRATES  
ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE"

About 230 Chinese soldiers under the command of Hsia Poo Yuan of the 88th Division of the Central Government army, who took up a position in the Four Banks Godown to offer resistance to our army during the local hostilities, finally surrendered to the British Defence Force and since then they have been interned in a camp at the corner of Kiaochow Road and Singapore Road.

On August 13, 1938, the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Shanghai hostilities, these soldiers had some trouble with the Russian guards of the camp over an attempt to hoist the Kuomintang flag over the camp. As a result of the trouble, two of the soldiers were killed. On the anniversary this year, these soldiers were quiet.

However, some question has been raised over the feeding of the interned soldiers at the expense of the S.M.C.

When the soldiers surrendered to the British Defence Force it was reported that the National Government would send money for their upkeep. This was done for only 2 or 3 months and was discontinued after the fall of Nanking. The Chungking Government is not now in a position to send money to Shanghai. In spite of this, the S.M.C. is advancing funds for their food in the belief that the National Government will repay the money.

We are concerned over the action of the S.M.C. in feeding these soldiers for an unknown period. The Japanese residents know that the S.M.C. is officially giving protection to the interned soldiers in the International Settlement which lies in an area under the control of the Japanese army and they are highly indignant over the matter. They express a hope that their authorities in Shanghai will take proper steps.

It is reported that a number of Japanese residents are suggesting the non-payment of the Municipal rate as a demonstration against the hostile attitude of the S.M.C. which is feeding the soldiers with funds collected partly from Japanese residents in the form of Municipal rates. Developments in the affair will be watched with close attention.

SHANGHAI M...  
...  
...  
...

October 27, 1939.

Afternoon Translation.

Ta Mei Pao, Shun Pao, Chinese-American Daily News :-

LOVE BATTALION ANNIVERSARY

Yesterday was the second anniversary of the heroic defence of the Joint Savings Bank Godown in Chapei by the Lone Battalion of the 88th Division. On that day in 1937, the 400 men of the 88th Division put up a courageous stand at the godown despite the heavy bombardment. Their heroic spirit aroused world-wide admiration. On the advice of the authorities of the Settlement who were solicitous for the safety of the Settlement, these 400 brave defenders retreated against their wish into the Settlement and have since been interned at the Kiaochow Road Camp.

A service to celebrate the anniversary was held at 3 p.m. yesterday in the presence of 100 representatives of local public bodies.

In the course of a speech, Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝晉元), who presided over the ceremony, said: "To-day's anniversary has a very significant meaning; it should enable us to reflect on the past and encourage us in the future. The recent unprecedented victory scored by us in North Hunan tells us that the Japanese are now nearing the end of their resources; it also gives us an assurance for final victory. At this time when the war of resistance has reached its most critical phase, the Chinese people, unless they are willing to be slaves, should render to the nation more strenuous services financially or otherwise."

"It was Japan's aggression that caused China to start the present war of resistance. For this reason, there is no way open to the Chinese people. We are fighting to ensure the complete safety of the sovereign and territorial integrity of the country and to crush Japan's ambitious designs for the subjugation of China."

Standard and other local newspapers :-

TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY CHINESE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION FROM  
DR. H.H. KUNG

A telegram was received yesterday by the Chinese Ratepayers' Association of the International Settlement from Dr. H.H. Kung, President of the Executive Yuan, expressing his appreciation of the efforts of the Association in connection with the settlement of the dispute over the hoisting of a national flag by the Lone Battalion in Shanghai.

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JAN 17 1951  
REC  
D.

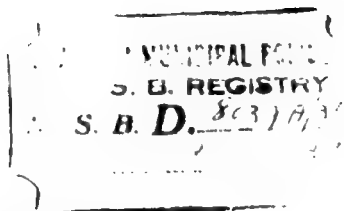
Chinese American Daily News and other local newspapers :-

THE LONE BATTALION

Fearing that the report published by the "Ta Mei Pao" on January 16 regarding the pay and rations of the Lone Battalion was liable to give rise to misunderstanding among the public, the entire body of officers and men of the Battalion yesterday issued an important statement in which mention was made about support to Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝青元).

Interviewed by a reporter of the Sin Sun News Agency (新華社), Colonel Zia made the following statement :- "The pay and rations of the Lone Battalion are entered in books which are examined by chartered accountants before they are submitted to the quarters concerned. It is a fact that difficulties were experienced about the supply of food to the Lone Battalion, but thanks to support from the people, these difficulties have been removed. The entire body of officers and men of the Battalion fully understand the present situation; they are rather depressed spiritually as they have been left behind in the isolated island and are not in a position to serve their country."

FILE



January 17, 1939.

Morning Translation.

Chinese American Daily News and other local newspapers:

THE PAY AND RATIONS OF THE LONE BATTALION

In connection with the report published by the "Ta Mei Pao" (大美報) of January 16 on the pay and rations of the Lone Battalion in the Kiaochow Road Park, the entire body of officers and men of the Battalion have issued the following important statements:-

"We were greatly surprised to read in the 'Ta Mei Pao' on January 16 a report as well as a letter said to have been issued by the Battalion of the 88th Division, on the pay and rations of our Battalion.

"It is to be noted that since our withdrawal from the Joint Savings Society Godown last year under the lead of Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝雪九), we have remained in Shanghai and have gone through many hardships. During the past year, Colonel Zia has been much exhausted through giving instructions to members of the Battalion and in dealing with various matters.

"The letter published by the 'Ta Mei Pao' was not issued by the officers and men of our Battalion. It was written with the object of injuring the reputation of the Lone Battalion and alienating the confidence of the people. Apart from denying the statements in the letter, we hereby inform the public of the circumstances surrounding the matters:-

- FILE
- 1) The National Government issued a reward of \$3,000 to the Lone Battalion. This money was handed to company commanders by Colonel Zia to be distributed, according to rank, among the soldiers.
  - 2) The Lone Battalion received pay and rations for only two months, because the other two months' pay and rations had not been issued for certain reasons. Colonel Zia has repeatedly urged the issue of this money. These are the facts and can be proved by an investigation.
  - 3) The subscriptions received by the Lone Battalion have been openly announced in newspapers by Colonel Zia. They have been entered in books, even if the amount is only one cent.

"Being a revolutionary soldier, Colonel Zia is honest. The officers and men of our Battalion are of the opinion that the person responsible for the issue of the letter to the 'Ta Mei Pao' must have been made use of by certain persons for some ulterior motive, thereby injuring the glorious history of our Lone Battalion and indirectly harming the reputation of the nation.

"With a view to exposing the sinister plans of traitorous elements, we hereby issue this statement for public information."

INTERNATIONAL POLICE  
REGISTRY  
1414

January 16, 1939.

Morning Translation.

Ta Mei Pao:

### THE PAY AND RATIONS OF THE LONE BATTALION

The members of the Lone Battalion who defended the Joint Savings Society Godown stubbornly last year withdrew into the International Settlement on the advice of a third party, and since then, they have been accommodated in the Kiao Chow Road Park. Although they have lost their freedom for the time being, the people of Shanghai are much interested over the welfare of these loyal and brave men.

The other day, this paper received a letter said to have been issued by the officers and men of the Battalion of the 88th Division. The letter contains the following allegations:- "The commander-in-chief of the No. - War Zone has issued a reward of \$3,000 to the Lone Battalion. This money has been unequally distributed among the soldiers. The National Government has issued four months' pay and rations, but the soldiers have received pay and rations for only two months. Furthermore, the account for monthly food expenses is also not clear."

It appears that the letter is directed against Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝清遠). As Colonel Zia, who is a revolutionary soldier, would never commit any acts of corruption, this paper yesterday detailed one of its reporters to call on Colonel Zia. (Colonel Zia is suffering from insomnia and is being treated in the Police Hospital.)

Interviewed, Colonel Zia made the following statement:- "Four company commanders were responsible for the distribution, according to rank, of the reward issued by the commander-in-chief of the No. - War Zone. I took no part in the distribution. At first, Mr. O.S. Lieu (劉子衡) detailed certain persons to make contracts for food supplies and the monthly expenses required in this connection were estimated at \$4,000. Dissatisfied with the bad food supplied, the officers and men took over the job themselves and were given \$3,000 a month. As the food is now better, no complaint has been heard. With the exception of a part of the money spent for clothes, the subscriptions from various circles are being deposited in a bank. The National Government has issued four months' pay and rations through the Shanghai District Association, but the letter has handed to us only two months' pay and rations, the remaining \$11,000 have not yet been delivered to us."

Colonel Zia refused to make a statement on the circumstances surrounding the affair. It is to be noted that the Shanghai District Association is a bona fide public body. We hope that the persons responsible for the administration of the association will give an explanation of the matter so as to avoid misunderstanding.

SHANGHAI  
N 4 B 13

January 16, 1939.

Morning Translation.

Morning Leader and other local newspapers :-

Shanghai Students' Federation Offers Flag to the  
Lone Battalion

At 10 a.m. yesterday, some 100 representatives of the Shanghai Students' Federation, bringing with them books and foodstuffs, called at the camp of the Lone Battalion on Kiao Chow Road and offered them a flag. Captain Lai received the students and led them in an inspection of the camp. A very simple ceremony of offering the flag was then held.

Music, basketball games etc. took place. The callers withdrew at 12.30 p.m.

FILE

November 20, 1938.

Morning Translation.

Sin Wan Pao (Evening Edition) published the following comment on November 19 :-

RUDENESS OF THE RUSSIAN REGIMENT, S.V.C.

Two days ago, students of Gonzaga College (金加中), led by an American Father, called at the camp of the Lone Battalion on Kiaschow Road to console the men. Two of the students, however, were assaulted and injured by a white Russian guard at the camp. The affair has aroused much indignation among the public and negotiations have been opened with the S.M.C.

An unfortunate affair occurred in August over the hoisting of a Chinese flag by the Lone Battalion, but a satisfactory solution was found through the efforts of Mr. Yu Ya-ching. Now, a case of assault of two students by the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., has taken place in the camp.

The present case occurred during a dispute over the closing of a door. One whose duty it is to guard the place refused to close the door. Then whose duty is it to close the door? A member of the Battalion closed the door and the matter should have ended there. Nevertheless, the Russian guard assaulted two young students and injured them.

The visit to the Lone Battalion made by the students of Gonzaga College is quite in order, therefore we are at a loss to understand the motive of such a wanton act. It is not to be wondered at that the American Father will take action.

It makes us sad to see the discipline of the Russian Regiment so bad. The white Russian guard has committed acts of violence on more than one occasion. Cannot they be controlled? Trouble may arise in future should such barbarous acts be allowed to continue. In that event, who will be responsible?

We hope that the S.M.C. will deal properly with the barbarous members of the Russian Regiment so as to avoid further incidents.

FILE



11  
November 19, 1938.

11  
Morning Translation

News Digest and other local newspapers :-

CHINESE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION LODGES PROTEST WITH THE S.M.C. OVER ASSAULT OF STUDENTS BY S.V.C. RUSSIAN DETACHMENT

The Chinese Ratepayers' Association in the International Settlement yesterday sent the following letter to the Shanghai Municipal Council :-

"We have read with deep regret a report appearing in the local newspapers about the assault committed on Tsai Wei-gee (蔡惠吉) and Yao Chia-ko (姚家可), two students of Gonzaga College (金日中学), by the Russian Detachment of the S.V.C. at the camp of the Lone Battalion. Sometime ago an unfortunate incident arose through inefficient handling on the part of this Russian Detachment which resulted in death to three soldiers of the Lone Battalion. The Council later wrote to this Association expressing its regret and appropriating \$3,000 as a compassionate grant to the families of the dead men. All this was caused by the rudeness of the Russian Detachment.

"Now an incident of assaulting of students has occurred and this furnishes further proof of the rudeness of the Russian Detachment and of its inefficiency. We send this letter with a request that the Council give close attention to the affair and punish the member of the Russian Detachment responsible for the assault and to exercise strict control over other members of the Detachment."

News Digest publishes the following letter :-

Undisciplined Members Should be Dismissed

To the Editor :

On November 17, I noticed a report in your paper that another incident in which young students were assaulted and injured by a certain member of the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., had taken place. The report aroused my indignation and other patriots throughout the country will likewise be moved.

The object of the Settlement authorities in maintaining the S.V.C. is to facilitate the keeping of peace and order in the Settlement. The Russian Regiment's duty is to protect but actually it is supervising the Lone Battalion at the Kiaochow Park Camp. It is a unit of the S.V.C. and its duty is to maintain peace and order. However, events have revealed that instead of carrying out this duty, the Russian members have repeatedly created incidents such as the affair involving the Lone Battalion and now the incident involving young students. All this shows that they have been endangering peace and order instead of preserving same according to the aim and purpose of the authorities.

We know full well that the assailants are a part of the Russian Regiment and not the entire body of members of the Russian Regiment. Nevertheless, with a view to removing ill-feeling amongst the Chinese towards the whole Russian Regiment, members of the Regiment should demand the dismissal and punishment of the small number of

November 19, 1938.

Morning Translation.

their comrades who are undisciplined and whose behaviour is barbarous and is harmful to the reputation of the Russian Regiment.

Meanwhile, it is hoped that the responsible authorities will immediately dismiss and punish the assailants, thereby making the Russian Regiment of the S.M.C. a unit responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in the Settlement.

Kin. Cheng (金成).

Globe (Editorial) :-

Advice to S.M.C. Over the Lone Battalion Problem

A case occurred a few days ago in the camp of the Lone Battalion, wherein a member of the Russian Regiment of the S.V.C. unreasonably assaulted two pupils who had called to console the Battalion. Such action on the part of the Russian Regiment causes one to sympathize with the S.M.C. which is working hard to deal with the situation.

With every sincerity, we submit the following advice and hope that the S.M.C. will accept it :-

The Lone Battalion withdrew into the International Settlement at the request of a third party for the sake of the safety of the Settlement. From the legal point of view, they are not prisoners, and it is only natural that the wise S.M.C. will not treat the Battalion as war prisoners. To our knowledge, the Settlement authorities have always adopted an attitude of respect towards the Battalion during the past 12 months of its detention.

On the outbreak of the incident in the camp of the Lone Battalion over the hoisting of a Chinese flag, the S.M.C. dealt with the situation with great care and the affair was settled in a satisfactory manner. This is proof that the Council has no hostility whatever towards the Lone Battalion. No doubt, shameless dogs were responsible for the insult to the Lone Battalion in order to create bad feeling between the S.M.C. and the Battalion and among the Chinese community. Of course, a few undisciplined members of the Russian Regiment were the ringleaders in this affair. The S.M.C. should get rid of these ringleaders and exercise control over the brainless members of the Russian Regiment so as to avert further unfortunate incidents.

The present case of assault of two pupils shows a tendency for increased violence on the part of the Russian Regiment. It is fortunate that through the proper action taken by Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan no serious trouble took place. Unless an improvement is made regarding the guarding of the camp of the Lone Battalion, conditions at the camp will be unstable. We sincerely hope that the S.M.C. will devise ways and means to remedy the situation as soon as possible and to prevent a recurrence of such incidents in the camp.

November 9, 1938.

Morning Translation.

Chinese-American Daily News and other local newspapers:

THE LONE BATTALION AFFAIR

The S.P.C. has sent a letter to the Chinese Ratepayers' Association in the International Settlement, expressing its deep regret for the unfortunate incident involving the men and officers of the Lone Battalion at the Camp in Kiaochow Park and has issued \$3,000 as compassionate grants for the families of the three deceased soldiers, whereupon the Ratepayers' Association in question asked Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝亭元) to transmit the sympathy of the Council to the families of the deceased and to enquire about the names and nativities of the deceased as well as the location of their families in order that the latter may be notified of the grants.

It is learned that the deceased were named Yuan Chang-tsing (游長清), native of Hupeh, Zung Van-zung (汪萬成), native of Shensi, and Waung Wei-yi (汪為義), native of Anhwei, the present whereabouts of the family of the last named being unknown. Apart from having despatched telegrams to the Hupeh and the Shensi Provincial Governments to locate the families of Yuan Chang-tsing and Zung Van-zung, the Chinese Ratepayers' Association has published a notice in newspapers to the effect that the family of Waung Wei-yi or whoever knows the present whereabouts of the family in question may call on Colonel Zia at the Camp or the Chinese Ratepayers' Association at No. 59 Hongkong Road immediately after reading this notice.

Ta Mei Wan Pao published the following comment on Sept.10:-

THE AFFAIR OF THE "LONE BATTALION"

Mr. Franklin, Chairman of the S.M.C., has now returned to Shanghai. It is expected that the dispute between the Council and the "Lone Battalion" may be settled in the near future.

There should be closer contact between the "Lone Battalion" and the S.M.C. It is obvious that the clash between the Battalion and the Russian Regiment of the S.V.C. was due to a misunderstanding. We hope that such incidents will never occur again. In the meantime, the "Lone Battalion" should show some consideration for the difficult position of the S.M.C.

The members of the "Lone Battalion" are enjoying the hospitality of the Council. Local Chinese are doing their best to prevent the affair of the "Lone Battalion" from becoming a political question.

FM 1

Memorandum.

DATE

To Commis

Sir,  
This item has been brought to the notice of J.B.M. and the Board of the ... will let me know the ... I suggested to ... call him ... This course I think is better than a word of ...

Yours faithfully,  
Robertson  
(B)

5031431

3 2 39

August 23, 1938.

Afternoon Translation.

Globe and other local newspapers of Aug. 22:

THE AFFAIR OF THE "LONE BATTALION" : LOCAL YOUTHS  
ISSUE MANIFESTO

According to the latest information, the incident involving the "Lone Battalion" will soon be satisfactorily settled.

With a view to accelerating a settlement of the incident, the local youths yesterday issued the following manifesto:-

"The 300 men of the Lone Battalion detained in the Kiaochow Park have been insulted, whipped and even killed. They eventually went on a hunger strike as a protest. The affair has broken the hearts of our brethren in this 'isolated island'. The unreasonable action of the authorities in preventing the hoisting of our national flag in our own territory is an insult not only to the Lone Battalion but also to every Chinese. We must support the men of the Lone Battalion.

"Brethren, let us use the blood of the 4,000,000 Chinese in this locality to wipe out this unprecedented humiliation and at the same time submit the following demands:-

- 1) That the men of the Russian Regiment, S.V.C., be withdrawn.
- 2) That the assailants be severely punished.
- 3) That the injured officers and men of the Lone Battalion be well treated.
- 4) That compassionate grants be issued to the families of the deceased soldiers.
- 5) That Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝子元) and other military officers of the Battalion be sent back to their camp.
- 6) That the public be allowed to send comforts to the men of the Battalion."

6-1-38

News Digest and other local newspapers :-

THE LONE BATTALION AFFAIR

The following telegram was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday by the National Chamber of Commerce, the China Branch of the International League of Chambers of Commerce, the Shanghai Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Shanghai District Association, the Chinese Ratepayers' Association in the International Settlement and the Shanghai First Special District Citizens' Federation, in reply to their petition in connection with the Lone Battalion incident :-

"This Ministry has opened negotiations with the British Ambassador to China for the release of the officers and men interned in the International Settlement. In connection with the present incident, over the raising of a flag, in which the officers and men were unreasonably assaulted, resulting in injuries and deaths, this Ministry has sent officials to the British Embassy to lodge strong verbal protests and later sent a written representation reserving our rights in the affair. The protests have been transmitted to the British Ambassador at Shanghai by his representative in Chungking."

August 4, 1938.

Morning Translation.

Sin Wan Pao Evening Edition (August 2)(comment) :-

A PLEA FOR THE LONE BATTALION

The public is very anxious over the plight of the lone battalion. Recently, an open letter addressed to the people of Shanghai by Colonel Zia Tsing-yuan (謝子元), Commander of the "Lone Battalion", appeared in local newspapers. It tells us that the officers and men of the battalion are leading an orderly life according to military discipline.

Now the weather is quite warm. The place where the Lone Battalion is billeted is small and crowded; moreover it lacks sanitary conveniences. This is likely to affect their health. We hope that the authorities of the Settlement will billet them in more suitable barracks so as to enable them to enjoy a little more comfort. It should not be overlooked that it was on the orders of the supreme command and for the sake of the peace and safety of the Settlement that the officers and men of the "Lone Battalion" were withdrawn from the Joint Savings Society Godown last year.



Ref. No. ....

Headquarters,  
Shanghai Municipal Police,  
August 1, 1938.

SUBJECT

Open Letter from Commander of Lone Battalion to  
The People of Shanghai.

The Commissioner presents his compliments to The Commandant,  
S. V. C.  
and begs to forward herewith the following documents relative to the  
subject referred to above

1. Copy of a newspaper translation.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

July 30, 1938.

Morning Translation.

Morning Leader and other local newspapers publish the following open letter, addressed by Col. Zia Tsing-yuan (謝晉元), Commander of the "Lone Battalion", to the people of Shanghai:-

OPEN LETTER FROM COMMANDER OF LONE BATTALION TO  
THE PEOPLE OF SHANGHAI

This letter is written in reply to many enquiries which I have received recently from my fellow-countrymen concerning our daily lives.

Nine months have elapsed since we withdrew from the Four Banks' Godown in accordance with an order issued by General Chiang Kai-shek at the request of a third party. During these nine months we have received worse treatment than prisoners from the authorities of the International Settlement; not only have we had no freedom of movement, but many kinds of unreasonable restrictions have been placed on us. We do not know on what legal basis the authorities of the International Settlement are detaining us here. International Law cannot be applied because no war has been declared between China and Japan. Furthermore, a number of Japanese troops withdrew into the International Settlement under pressure at an early stage of the hostilities but they were released by the International Settlement authorities a few days later. We have not forgotten the bloody lessons learned in the Hongkew District of the International Settlement in the January 28 and in the present hostilities. Thus, the International Settlement has lost its neutrality.

The public are greatly mistaken if they think that we can do nothing without arms. Righteousness and justice are our weapons, and my 300 men are ready to be turned into dangerous explosives at any time in defence of the honour of our country and of our soldiers. We would rather lose our lives than submit to any Imperialists.

We are interned on a piece of vacant ground, about ten mow in area, opposite No.40 Singapore Road. The land was used for dumping garbage and is unlevelled. Visitors, after stating their intention to a member of the Russian Detachment, S.V.C., and to our orderly on duty at the gate, will at once be led inside. Visitors may call at any time and there is no limitation on the number of visitors, so long as they are led by a responsible person. Decision in this regard rests with me and no other party may interfere. In the case of persons who visit us frequently, passes can be issued to avoid the trouble of having to wait at the gate, but the number of such passes is limited.

The funds for our maintenance during the past nine months were supplied by local benevolent organizations. These funds are exhausted. Our accommodation is crowded and poorly built. It leaks in rainy weather and the floor is easily flooded. There are absolutely no sanitary conveniences. But all this does not trouble us.

July 30, 1938.

Morning Translation.

We have two meals a day and these are cooked by ourselves. The vegetables, rice, firewood etc. are sold to us by people. We have certain hours for lectures and work each day. The rest of the time we engage in sports. We have one football ground, one basket-ball ground, one volley-ball ground, one tennis court, one ping pong table, and other equipment for exercises. We have also a harmonica group. The Y.M.C.A. shows us a motion picture once a week. Among ourselves we have formed a co-operative society for the sale of daily necessities.

When I received the order to withdraw, I thought we could pass through the Settlement to the Western District, but we were disarmed by the British soldiers. I was never more enraged than on that occasion. It marked the beginning of an inhuman and miserable life for me. From October 31 last year to May this year I have been suffering from loss of sleep. Neither Chinese nor foreign style doctors could improve my conditions until the last two months. Now I am better.

"B"

Misc. 58/39.

Gordon Road

February 21st, 39.

1.

Re the escape of an interned Chinese Soldier  
from the Singapore Road Camp.

At 2.25 a.m. 21/2/39 a telephone message was received from B'Well Station to the effect that they had just received word that an interned Chinese soldier had escaped from the Singapore Road Camp.

C.D.S. 173 and the undersigned immediately attended and were informed by Lieutenant Davydzik of the Russian Regiment S.V.C., who was officer of the guard, that at 1.05 a.m. 21/2/39 he was informed by major Daung Dien ( ) of the 3rd Company of the interned Battalion that one of his men had escaped.

Major Daung Dien was interviewed and stated that he had been informed by his men that a private named Shiao Kyung Kyi ( ), age about 22, native of Wusih, height about 5'2", round pale face, short cropped hair, medium build, wearing the Phaki uniform and cap of a private in the Chinese Army and black rubber shoes, had escaped from the camp by scaling the unguarded South wall of the camp at 11 p.m. 20/2/39.

This wall faces Kiaochow Road Park and is about 8' high with a further three feet of barbed wire at the top and with the exception of the barbed wire would be easy to scale. Owing to the height of this wall it is not usually guarded and no guard was posted there during the

P.A. to D.C. (Sp. Br.)

Misc. 58/39.

1/2.

night of 20/2/39.

Immediately he was informed of the escape Lieut. Davydzik sent search parties into the Kiaochow Road Park and vicinity but nothing was found.

The undersigned also searched the park but without success.

Only one Chinese watchman was on duty in the park during the night of 20/2/39 and when questioned he was unable to supply any useful information.

The escaped man's comrades were interrogated and from them it was learned that the escaped man had at one time been employed as a park butcher's assistant in Nantao prior to the hostilities and that he has no known relatives in Shanghai and had frequently expressed the desire of returning to Wusih.

It is suspected that several of the man's comrades were concerned in assisting him to escape as they were all aware of the escape and all stated that they believed he intended to return to Wusih.

The description of the escaped soldier has been circulated as has a request that all station carefully checked their curfew arrests.

Inquiries proceeding.

Sen. Det. 1/6.

*B. Smith*  
D.S. M.

D.D.O. "B" Div.

**F**

of Br. Registry. ~~XXXXXX~~

SUBJECT:

"Zone partition" interne in Settlement (Special Fr. Reports)

PARTICULARS	OFFICE	FILE NO.
<div data-bbox="220 834 549 945" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> CONFIDENTIAL DRAWER </div>		
INSTRUCTIONS SEE OVER		